

This budget from last night aims to balance the Federal budget in 10 years. Well, we welcome the President to the arena, admitting that we should be balancing this budget. However, 10 years? This means that during the next 10 years, the Federal debt, which is now \$5 trillion, will still be growing. It means that we hope that a decade from now when children who are now in the third grade, they will be graduating from high school, the budget will still not be balanced.

Remember, the President did not say the debt would be paid off. He said that if all goes well, we will stop adding to the debt a decade from now. That does not count what we are borrowing from social security and everything else.

Now, does not this all sound a little ludicrous? Do we really think that Congress will balance the budget 10 years from now, putting it off that long? We just cannot do it today?

There are some of us out there who remember the character Wimpy in the Popeye cartoons. Wimpy made the famous line, "I will gladly pay you Tuesday for a hamburger today." Of course, everyone knew Wimpy did not intend to pay for that hamburger.

President Clinton is saying, "We will not pay you back in 10 years, but we will stop getting an advance on those, if you will, hamburgers at that time." The President has said that it would be too painful to bring the budget into balance in less than 10 years.

Now, remember Thomas Jefferson, while President, introduced a plan to pay back the Federal debt over 16 years and then start paying off that debt and getting it done with. He thought it prudent not just to balance the budget, but to run up a surplus to pay off the debt and have a little extra in reserve.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. I yield to the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. KINGSTON. I want to ask about this because if the President is not re-elected, that would mean that the budget that he is proposing will actually not be balanced until 9 years after he leaves office. Is that correct?

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. You mean, if everything worked out perfectly for the President and he stayed in the full 8 years that is allowed under law, he still would not have a balanced budget? That is what it means.

Mr. KINGSTON. Then at what level will the national debt be? Because that would be 9 more years of deficit spending on top of a \$4.8 trillion debt. Did he project what the debt would be?

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. He did not project. But if the CBO projection, and you really cannot tell whether what he said was a political statement or whether he is serious about balancing the budget, we will not know that until we see the details. But we are looking at a growing budget, and if it is consistent with the spending that he suggested when he gave us his budget in February, that is at least \$200 billion a

year, times 10, times 10 years. We are looking at a budget that cannot possibly be paid back by our kids and our grandkids.

It is going to ruin their chances for a standard of living.

I think it is good to mention; he said it is going to be too painful to pay back this debt in just 7 years, but the pain we are talking about is political pain, admitting reality. So we have a problem here. We are spending money we do not have now. We are asking our kids and our grandkids to pick up that bill years from now, and you just cannot do it.

I think the President has got to come to this table, and if he expects to have any credibility in terms of input in the best way possible to cut spending and balance the budget, then he has got to come to the table seriously.

Mr. KINGSTON. If the gentleman will yield further, one thing that is interesting, I usually speak to two or three schools each month. I talk a lot to the high school juniors and seniors, and I always remind them, when they graduate and get in the work world, their percentage of income that goes to taxes is going to be far higher than their teachers, parents, grandparents, or any other generation of Americans that has ever entered the workplace.

We talked about postponing pain. Tell that to an 18- or 19-year-old who is about to get his or her first job. They will tell you, "I cannot believe how much of my paycheck Uncle Sam gets," and, as you know, the third largest expenditure of the national budget now is interest on the debt. Think how much greater it will be if we wait 10 years.

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. The projection is that these kids today, if we continue to spend like we have been spending, are going to have to pay taxes that amount to over \$180,000 during their lifetime just to pay their share of the interest on the national debt.

You know, this little card is what Congressmen use to vote with. It is sort of like a credit card, but really the Federal Government, these 435 Members of Congress here, do not have money to give away. They have got to take money away from the citizens all across this country, taxpayers, and we are giving away taxpayers' money. The way you hear some people talk, you would think it is government's money that they are giving away. We are taking away this money from individuals by increasing taxes.

I would invite the President to come seriously to the negotiating table, admit that it is right to balance the budget, come legitimately and say, "Yes, I agree, we should be balancing in 5 years, 7 if necessary, and let us get on with making a better future for our kids."

COMMEMORATING FLAG DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from Georgia [Mr. KINGSTON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Michigan may want to complete that thought. I do not want to cut him off. It sounds like he got where he was going with that.

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. If the gentleman will yield, no, I want to talk about some significance and open the discussion today, Flag Day, and the American flag.

I had a brother that was a jet pilot, killed in 1957. I am old enough that I went through World War II, and the American flag is more than a symbol. It is what many Americans really out there on the front lines fought for and died for.

So I look forward to the gentleman's comments on Flag Day.

Mr. KINGSTON. It is interesting, I went to the Savannah Scottish Rite Flag Day ceremony this week, in Savannah, and we talked about the Bennington flag and the Grand Union flag that preceded our first national flag on June 14, 1777.

That flag has meant so much to different people, but our favorite flag story is the one about Francis Scott Key.

One of the things we always know is he was on a British ship, but we do not know what he was doing there. He was not a captive. His friend was a captive. He went to the British ship voluntarily on behalf of his friend and petitioned the officer in charge to release his friend, who was a doctor, for humanitarian purposes. He said, "This gentleman is a doctor. He needs to come and tend to the sick and the wounded just as your British doctors do." And the British officer in charge was so taken back by his bravery in risking his own life in coming out there, and, you see, there were actually two of them totally. He said, "I will tell you what, I will let all three of you guys go in the morning. We are attacking Fort McHenry through the night." They were, frankly, very confident they could win and capture Fort McHenry.

What happened, of course, is Francis Scott Key and his friends were sitting on the ship, bow of the ship, standing there captives, watching through the night, trying to figure out what would happen, and then at the dawn's early light they were able to determine, of course, by the sign, the American flag still standing or still flying, that the British were, in fact, not successful in taking Fort McHenry.

He started writing the poem, which became the national anthem, on his way back, because the British officer kept his word, let him go, starting writing the poem, finished it later. It took about 130 years for Congress to declare that the national anthem. You compare that to how quickly the Senate works these days, and we would still probably not have a national anthem.

You know, the American flag does two things. It is a warm and fuzzy emotion when you see it. You know, you

think about home. You think about mom and dad, your parents, your family. You think about goodness.

But then aside from that emotion, you think idealistically, like your brother. You think about the sacrifices. You think about the bravery and the freedom that men and women, generation after generation, have put forth to defend this great land of ours, and it is proper the U.S. Congress would take a moment today and say the Pledge of Allegiance one more time towards the end of the afternoon just so we can reaffirm that, and it is also proper that we recognize Flag Day on a bipartisan basis, because every now and then we do get out of focus. We do start pounding one body or one party or one philosophy. We should always come back to that flag. That symbol of freedom is why we are here.

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. I think your point is so important and so good.

We do have the greatest Nation on Earth, and we get in our little squabbles, and we look for ways to try to improve it. Both sides of the aisle, Republicans and Democrats, feel very strongly that they want to make the best future possible for the kids. Sometimes we have a difference in philosophy on how to get there, but we have a great country, and the flag of the United States of America is something we all feel very closely to.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. KINGSTON. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE. I appreciate the gentleman yielding.

I thank you so very much for the entire to make this bipartisan salute, and because it is Flag Day, I think it is more than appropriate to simply say how special it is, as many of our young children begin kindergarten, sometimes earlier, they learn for the first time, "I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America," and how special it is for them to come and share with their family members that they know the words.

So it is appropriate that we make this a bipartisan salute.

I thank the gentleman for raising it. I think it is most appropriate that we do so in the U.S. Congress because the American people look to us to lead and to emphasize the high ground. So I congratulate you, but, more importantly, I congratulate the American people and salute the flag of United States of America.

Mr. KINGSTON. It is fitting we do that. I am a native of Texas, and as you know, Texas has a very rich history in that Texas was one of the States that was actually a country at one time, and one of the great chapters of Texas history was the Battle of the Alamo and the great cry for the men who were being surrounded by Santa Ana's troops at the Alamo was for Americans to come rescue them, which, when Sam Houston's folks did come, many, many American soldiers had volunteered for

that cause of Texas freedom and sovereignty.

There, again, the good old American flag pulls through.

□ 1945

Mr. Speaker, it always has represented the hope, the glory, the promise and the freedom.

HOW AMERICA WILL WIN

The SPEAKER pro tempore [Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania.] Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas [Ms. JACKSON-LEE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to share in the salute to our flag, and my remarks now, I think, are really in line with what America is all about.

I looked at a startling figure this afternoon, and that was to determine that more than 14 million families in America make less than \$10,000.

Many of us, of course, have risen to speak on behalf of business development and enhanced opportunities for our corporations so that jobs can be created, but simply think about someone who is making only \$10,000, a hard-working family, some of whom have children and trying to survive in this country.

I would ask the question to my Republican colleagues, "Why are we here?" We certainly have not come here to be whiners and to complain about who has the better offering when it comes to budget and deficit reduction. I think the president of the United States did what was his responsibility. I reviewed the budgets that were on the table, including his previous submitted budget. He recognized there were 14 million citizens who were making under \$10,000 and were suffering in this economy, and he began to draft a budget that responds to the bipartisan approach that is needed.

First of all, I think it should be noted that the deficit has gone down in the last year and 2 years. Second, I think it is well to recognize that the budget that was passed by this House, and I disagree with, was a very hard budget. It was a budget that was extreme, and the President now offers us an opportunity for reasoned and bipartisan debate, one we focus on education. It gives people the opportunity in the 21st century.

Second, I think it gives us a longer period of time to in a rational way stem the tide of a possible recession, to extend budget deficit reduction and a balanced budget to a 10-year mark. It preserves certain funding for certain programs that create jobs, and likewise it does not give a tax cut to unwilling Americans, meaning those who have said "I don't need a tax cut; I'm making over \$200,000 a year," but it does recognize the need to respond to working men and women and provide them with a tax break.

It is important, now that we have several budgets on the table, that we

be concerned about Medicare and we do not make the deep and dividing cuts that would damage some of the needs of seniors who have to make determinations to either buy prescription drugs or to eat. The President looks at this in a manner that is focused, is not mean spirited and answers the needs of all Americans.

I hope some day we will face a country that has all of our American citizens working at their fullest extent, that sees our 14 million citizens, families that are making under \$10,000 make some than that, that they are able to enjoy life, vacation, have a home, send their children to college. But we will not get to that point unless we recognize that a budget must respond to the needs of all of us.

Education is the key. It breaks us out of the shackles of our under-opportunity to more opportunity.

So, Mr. Speaker, I think it is important not to be whiners. I think it is important to come and do the job that we have been asked to do, review the President's budget, review the budget that was passed out of the House, the Senate budget, avoid a crisis in October so that this Government is not shut down, begin to respond to the needs of those who asked us to open the doors of educational opportunity in elementary, secondary and higher education, not focus on the privileged few with major tax breaks and tax cuts, but focus on deficit reduction in a reasoned manner, and do not disrespect all of the good work that our seniors have done by making them make the choices between prescription drugs and simply eating, and do a reasoned reform of health care so that our seniors can be protected with a reasoned Medicare program, and those who are indigent, with a reasoned Medicaid program, and begin this debate not from a point of who gets the political brownie points, but in fact how will America win.

I think America wins when we sit down and discuss a budget that is fair and even-handed. I think the President has offered us an opportunity for that reasoned debate, and, Mr. Speaker, I would hope, as many of my colleagues, Republicans, have noted, and many Democrats have noted, that we will take the opportunity and the challenge and will work on behalf of the American people.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. FIELDS of Texas (at the request of Mr. ARMEY), for today, on account of attending a funeral.

Mrs. MYRICK (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT), for today until 3:15 p.m., on account of family illness.

Mr. YATES (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT), for today, on account of illness.