

The ag sector provides 16 percent of our Nation's gross domestic product, and one of every six jobs.

And our ag exports are one of the few bright spots in our Nation's overall trade picture.

Mr. Speaker, adoption of this bill would cause severe economic dislocation and job losses, not just in agriculture, but throughout our entire economy. It is a very, very bad proposal.

THE MAGIC WILL BE BACK

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

Mr. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the National Basketball Association champions, the Houston Rockets. Clearly this year the better team won the series that just was played between the Rockets and the Orlando Magic, but I want my colleagues to know that I and the people of Orlando are mighty proud of the Orlando Magic. They had a terrific season. They gave Orlando a wonderful experience. I have never seen our community more tightly drawn together for any one cause than they were during these playoffs around the Magic. They were the eastern division champions.

Mr. Speaker, I want to specifically congratulate: Shaquille O'Neil, Anfernee Hardaway, Horace Grant, Dennis Scott, Nick Anderson, Brian Shaw, Anthony Bowie, Jeff Turner, Donald Royal, Anthony Avent, Tree Rollins, and Brooks Thompson, the players, coach Brian Hill and his wonderful staff, and the ownership and management team of Rich DeVos and Bob Van der Weide and their group.

The Magic will be back. Wait until next year.

STANFORD STUDENTS SEND 20,000 LETTERS SUPPORTING STUDENT AID

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

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, in April I addressed hundreds of students at Stanford University, which I am privileged to represent, about Republican proposals to cut Federal aid for higher education. At that time I said that if student aid was important to them, they needed to educate themselves about what was happening in Congress and become involved.

And get involved they did.

The Associated Students of Stanford University Senate allocated \$1,000 to fight Republican cuts to student aid—aid which assists over half of Stanford's student population. This effort culminated in a 48-hour letter-signing drive which generated 20,000 signed letters to budget resolution conferees protesting these ill-conceived cuts.

Mr. Speaker, I could not be prouder of the Stanford student body. I hope

my colleagues on the conference committee will reconsider these budget cuts which would undermine America's commitment to higher education, America's ability to compete in a world market, and America's investment in our future.

TIME TO TARGET THE IRS FOR POLITICAL REASONS

(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 IRS says our investigation of the National Rifle Association is not politically motivated. Right. Who is kidding whom? How can the IRS make that statement with a straight face?

The truth of the matter is, Mr. Speaker, plain and simple, the Internal Revenue Service has targeted the National Rifle Association for political reasons. My colleagues know it, I know it, and the American people know it, and I want to say this:

I think it is time for the Congress of the United States to target the Internal Revenue Service for political reasons, and that political reason is very simple. Here in America the people govern, and it is time that the Internal Revenue Service get that message. Think about it.

INTRODUCTION OF BILL ENDING FEDERAL AFFIRMATIVE ACTION PROGRAMS

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

Mr. FUNDERBURK. Mr. Speaker, last week I introduced H.R. 1764, legislation to eliminate over 160 Federal affirmative action programs ranging from public employment to education.

Mr. Speaker, affirmative action is an affront to the dignity of every American. It is an assault on the principle that no American should be handicapped or advanced simply on the basis of his skin color. It has been 40 years since Little Rock and almost 35 years since the hoses were shut down in Birmingham. As Bruce Fein points out in yesterday's Washington Times, "Special preferences for minorities and women have dominated civil rights laws for the entire adult lives of the 18 to 40 years old group."

Mr. Speaker, to continue to see America through the prism of racial entitlements reinforces the same type of dangerous thinking that led to slavery and Jim Crow. No matter what face the liberals put on it there is nothing good about racial discrimination in any form. Calling affirmative action "benign discrimination" is obscene. It is about time the liberals recognize that we are all one people in this country. We are all American. Let us do something right for our children, let us end affirmative action as we know it.

WHY THE REPUBLICANS ARE CUTTING MEDICARE, MEDICAID, AND SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, why are the Republicans cutting Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security to pay for tax breaks for the wealthiest people in our society? We should be strengthening our Medicare system, not using it as a piggy bank or a cash cow to let the wealthiest individuals in the corporations take advantage of middle income people in America today.

If we really want to strengthen Medicare, we should shut down some of these corporate tax loopholes and expenditures totaling about \$225 billion a year and corporate pork and help our senior citizens and their families make ends meet.

I say to my colleagues, Let's give our senior citizens help with the cost of prescription drug care, with long-term care, not cut their deductibles like the Republicans want to do, or increase their premiums or raise their deductibles as the Republicans want to do. Let us do that, and let us make the wealthiest in our society pay their fair share.

PRESIDENT'S BUDGET DOES NOTHING TO SAVE MEDICARE

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

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Mr. Speaker, I would like to welcome the President of the United States into the budget debate, and I commend him for at least putting forward a balanced budget on the table, even if it does go 10 years, even if it does not cure the Medicare and Medicaid crises.

I heard the last speaker speak for a second talking about how the Republicans were cutting Medicare. The fact of the matter is the President of the United States own commission came back to him and said, "Mr. President, Medicare and Medicaid are going to be bankrupt in the year 2002. You have got to do something about it." Unfortunately the President's budget does not do anything about it. It does not take care of the Medicare and Medicaid crisis. It still goes bankrupt.

Mr. Speaker, the Republican plan does take care of it, and, because of that, I think we need to move forward with the Republican plan, but at the same time I welcome the President of the United States and some of his advisers for finally standing up and showing a little courage, and daring to get into the arena and bloody themselves up instead of just saying, "No, no, no, that's not a good deal."

But we have got to do more. We have got to protect senior citizens. We have got to protect Medicare. We have got to protect Medicaid.

We invite the President of the United States and the Democratic Party to

come to the Republican side. Help us help senior citizens.

SKYLAR BYRD, THE PRIDE OF THE D.C. PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

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

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, the District rarely gets the opportunity to tell the countless good stories of its residents and its children. After all, in this tabloid society, success is boring. Failure is news. But some successes shine so brightly, they both capture and captivate.

Skylar Byrd, a District of Columbia public school student, made the news recently and made some history as well. Her perfect score on her SAT's when she was 15 got the attention it deserves. Skylar is a student at Banneker High School in the District.

Skylar's smart all right. But Skylar has more than her considerable talent going for her. She has a capacity for hard work, and a loving family. She also has a public school system that deserves a lot more credit than it gets. Perhaps Skylar's success can help illuminate the accomplishments of Banneker and the District of Columbia public schools and its students as well.

WAITING FOR THE DETAILS

(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, some of us in the freshman and sophomore classes this morning met with Ross Perot, really, I think, an inspiration for saying that we have got to move ahead and do the kind of things that we know are right.

Mr. Speaker, he mentioned that, if we took all of the Fortune 500 companies, and we took all of their assets, all of their money, and sold all of their investments, it would pay off a deficit spending for 1 year. I mean we have got a serious problem ahead of us.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is great that the President is now saying we should have a balanced budget. I am waiting for the details. I think it is important that he gets the details up here so our conferees on the budget can look at some of his suggestions, some of this administration's suggestions, on where he cuts. He is saying that it is going to take reductions in Medicare and in Medicaid.

I say to my colleagues, Let's work together to make sure we preserve those programs, that we save them not only for this generation, but for future generations.

□ 1100

TRANSFERRING WEALTH FROM MIDDLE CLASS TO WEALTHY

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

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, the concern with the cuts in the Medicare that are promised in the Republican budget that is now in the conference committee is that the simple fact is they are reaching into the Medicare system to make changes to slow the growth. They are using those changes and those savings that result from that to fund the tax cuts, half of which will go to the wealthiest people in this Nation.

Yesterday the Republican conference of House Members met and they reaffirmed their commitment to that tax cut. All that can tell us is they are willing to put at risk the health care of the senior citizens that are on that Medicare system today. For those families who are concerned about their own health care and the health care of their parents, it simply means that that system will not be shored up. But among the wealthiest people in this country, the savings from Medicare will be taken away from those people and transferred to those wealthy, just as they are taking away the earned income tax credit for low-income people who go to work but cannot get above the poverty line. They are going to reduce the earned income tax credit and give that to the wealthiest people.

This is the largest transfer of income and wealth from middle class to the wealthy in the history of this country, and it ought to be repudiated on Medicare and earned income tax credit.

PRESIDENT CHANGING COURSE, SEES NEED FOR BALANCED BUDGET

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

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely congratulate the President on accepting the need for a balanced budget.

In fact, I will resolve for this day to forget any differences I may have had with the President in the past.

I will not talk about the fact that the President has constantly fought Republican proposals to downsize the Federal Government.

I will not focus on how the President has consistently bad-mouthed Republican plans to save the Medicare system—which we all agree is going broke.

And finally, I will not even think about how the President has repeatedly bemoaned Republican proposals to cut taxes for working Americans.

No, I am going to forget those things today. Because, I know that just as the President has accepted the need for a

balanced budget, someday the President will change his mind and accept the need for a smaller Government, a revitalized Medicare system, and lower taxes.

SCARE MAIL ORGANIZATIONS DEFRAUDING SENIOR CITIZENS

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

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer a few comments in a different vein. It arises because of concern for many of the senior citizens of this country, a group which I am on the verge of joining. Because I am on the verge of joining that group, I am beginning to get the mail which is often addressed to senior citizens, which I would call scare mail, but might more appropriately be called fraud mail.

It is mail that is intended to frighten them about what is happening in Congress and to encourage them to send these organizations money so that they can communicate to use the concern that senior citizens have about losing Medicare, about losing Social Security, about losing Federal pensions, or what have you.

It is a fraud. What brought this to mind is that recently a constituent sent me the \$5 that was intended to go to the organization that was soliciting money from him.

I want every senior citizen in this country to know, and every person in this country to know, you do not have to send money to any organization in order to get your message to us. Simply write us directly. I do not add any extra weight to a communication sent to me by one of these organizations. Constituents can write us directly and let us know. They do not have to send money to these fraudulent organizations.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1996

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TORKILDSEN). Pursuant to House Resolution 164 and rule XXIII, the chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 1530.

□ 1103

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 1530) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 1996 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 1996, and for other purposes, with Mr. EMERSON in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.