

in addition to a balanced budget, we are going to keep our original contract. The original contract was with our senior citizens. We can have a balanced budget but it is important that we do it in the right way, not in the politically expedient way.

BUSINESS AS USUAL MUST GO: CONGRESS MUST PASS THE BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT

(Mrs. MYRICK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, on November 8, America's voters sent us to Washington to change the way the Federal Government does business. They made it very clear that the tax-and-spend mentality and business as usual must end.

The people are aware of the ever-increasing national debt of \$4.5 trillion and the need for a balanced budget amendment. They are also aware that too many here in Congress, do not comprehend the need, nor acknowledge the people's insistence, for it to be done. Americans balance their own budgets. They demand the same of their Government.

The people are burdened by paying over half of their income in taxes. So they fully understand the need for a vote by three-fifths of the Congress before taxes can be raised.

When the U.S. Congress enacts, and 38 States ratify, a balanced budget amendment, it will ensure that the Federal Government does not spend more than it takes in. It will be a first step toward achieving the changes that the voters have demanded, and it will contribute to the reweaving of the fabric of America for future generations.

MEDIA'S ASSERTION OF AMERICANS' ANGER OFF BASE

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

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, in his State of the Union Address Tuesday, President Clinton said the American people were engaged in a shouting match. This observation parallels the liberal media's assertion that the American people are angry at each other. This is light years from the truth.

Americans are not angry and they are certainly not shouting at each other.

Mr. Speaker, if the American people are shouting at anybody, they are shouting at the Federal Government. More precisely, they are sickened at the level of irresponsible spending, the bloated and inefficient bureaucracies and the constant drumbeat for more taxes.

The other night President Clinton treated us to an interesting speech and I am glad to see that he supports many of the ideas Republicans have been

talking about for years. But once again I call on the President and my friends on the other side of the aisle to put aside the rhetoric and take action.

This week the President and this Congress have an opportunity to restore faith with the American people and put our financial priorities in order.

We must pass the balanced budget amendment and put an end to the disgrace of deficit spending. Remember, Mr. Speaker, the American people are not shouting at each other. They are shouting at us.

A QUESTION OF PRIORITIES

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

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. Speaker, I think we all know that when it comes to television ratings, the Simpson trial is going to get a lot more viewers than the proceedings of the House of Representatives, but I hope that America will tune in today to this debate on the balanced budget amendment. It is critically important to every American who values Social Security and Medicare. What the Republicans are proposing is literally to make certain that Social Security will be vulnerable to cuts for years to come. They will not tell you, but I think the facts bear us out.

They are going to call for a 30-percent cut in Medicare as a result of today's debate, and senior citizens will pay more out of pocket, have fewer services, and we will see hospitals closing across America.

These are facts the Republicans do not want to disclose but they are simple facts that are inevitable conclusions from where they stand. We should not be surprised.

Speaker NEWT GINGRICH wrote in USA Today in 1987, "It's time to replace Social Security."

It is no priority for the Republicans, but it is a priority for America to protect our senior citizens, to protect Social Security and to protect Medicare.

SUPPORT BBA WITH THREE-FIFTHS REQUIREMENT

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

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, last November the American people decided that Congress must take responsibility for their action and must be held accountable for the taxpayers' money. The public has lost all faith in the job that is being done by Congress. For the public to regain their trust and respect in our Government, we must pass a balanced budget amendment including a three-fifths requirement to increase taxes.

When this requirement takes effect, people will be reassured that Congress cannot blindly raise their taxes. The

amendment will help ensure a safe financial future for our children and grandchildren so they do not have to pay for the spending mistakes of yesterday.

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Every day Americans strongly support a balanced budget amendment. People understand the necessity of paying bills, balancing checkbooks, and living within their means. It is unfortunate that people struggle to make ends meet but their Government does not understand the concept.

Enough is enough. It is time for us to reign in the out-of-control spending habits of this Congress. I ask my fellow Members, both Democrats and Republicans, to support the balanced budget amendment with the three-fifths protection for American citizens.

PROTECT SOCIAL SECURITY IN A BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT

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

Mr. BRYANT of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today we will take up the balanced budget amendment and I am one Democrat who supports an amendment. But I support an amendment that protects Social Security. There is no reason why we cannot pass a balanced budget amendment that still maintains the guarantee to senior citizens that Social Security will not be touched.

We have heard some of these Republicans raise questions about why we are talking about Social Security. I will tell Members why. It is because you fellows elected a Speaker of the House who has called for abolishing Social Security. The Republican Speaker of the House, NEWT GINGRICH, in 1986 called for abolishing Social Security and turning it into some kind of a mandatory IRA program, and I am quoting from the Atlanta Constitution, November 1986.

Also because you Republicans elected a majority leader, DICK ARMEY, who did the same thing. He cosponsored a special provision for a mandatory retirement account that was supposed to substitute for Social Security. He also spoke out a few years ago about the fact that we never should have started Social Security in the first place.

Senior citizens have a good reason to be afraid of what Republicans are going to do to Social Security. Today when we vote for an amendment to balance the budget, we ought to vote for a provision to protect Social Security.

SINGING VERSUS SHOUTING

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

Mr. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, in his State of the Union Address Tuesday night, President Clinton said that in the 1992 and 1994 elections, we did not

hear the people singing, we heard them shouting. I could not agree with the President more.

But what are the people shouting for? Are they shouting for more of the big Government, big spending, liberal ideals that the Democrats championed for the past 40 years? I think not.

The people are shouting for Congress to clean up its act. They are shouting for a Government that is smaller, less costly, and more efficient. They are shouting for us to pass legislation such as the balanced budget amendment to make us get our fiscal problems in order.

I urge my colleagues from the other side of the aisle to join me in voting yes for the balanced budget amendment with a three-fifths tax limitation provision. It is what the people are shouting for. It is what the people deserve.

PROTECTING SOCIAL SECURITY IN THE BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT

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

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, what is the difference between the Democratic balanced budget amendment and the one proffered by the Republicans? Simple. Ours protects the elderly, Social Security and Medicare and theirs does not.

The new Republican majority is afraid to tell the American people what balancing the budget will mean to their constituents, because their programs are like a noose around the necks of the elderly, a noose that tightens every day we get closer to passing the Contract With America.

They say they will not cut Medicare, but the fact of the matter is their budget committee is considering huge changes in Medicare that will end the program as we know it.

They say they will not cut Social Security, but Speaker GINGRICH wrote this article. Read it. It says replace Social Security.

This does not sound like Social Security is off the table; it sounds like Social Security is the table setting for the Republican Party's balanced budget amendment.

DICK ARMEY said that the American people's knees would buckle if they knew what services would be cut to balance their budget. When these cuts hit, seniors all over this country will be screaming, "I have fallen and I can't get up."

VOTE FOR BARTON BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT

(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, like many of my colleagues today, I

am proud of what the Republicans have done already under the banner of the Contract With America.

We have made true fiscal responsibility in Congress the hallmark of our legislative plan. And at the very heart of this plan, we have placed the one tool that is absolutely essential to restoring accountability—the balanced budget amendment.

For too long, Congress denied its responsibility by using tax increases to cover up its own lack of political will to make tough budgetary decisions. Limiting the ability of Congress to raise taxes will force Congress to set real budget priorities. If there is one thing 40 years of Democrat rule should have taught us, it is that their party consistently lacks the will to make the tough decisions. Yet we cannot trust that fiscal conservatives will always run the House of Representatives.

To safeguard our children from a return to the profligate ways of our congressional past, we must enact a budget balancing tool with teeth.

I urge this House to support the Barton amendment that will forbid increases without both parties participating. Vote for the 60-percent rule.

BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT

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

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, a few weeks ago, I invited voters from my district to a meeting in Concord, MA, to try their hand at cleaning up the budget mess. Roughly 260 people took me up on the offer. They broke into small groups, and went to work drawing up plans to balance the budget.

With the full range of budget choices laid out before them, the players were asked to make the decisions needed to balance the budget. Only 16 of the 25 groups had produced a plan 1½ hours later. Not one Democrat or Republican managed to balance the budget without raising taxes.

Let us face it, Congress needs a balanced budget amendment to eliminate the deficit. But it is not going to take the rest of the country very long to figure out what the people in Concord, MA, discovered last weekend: That the Contract With America version of the balanced budget amendment is a hoax. If we are serious about balancing the budget, we cannot take anything off the table yet—not even tax increases.

Let us stop trying to fool the American people. Vote for the Stenholm-Schaefer amendment today, and pass a real balanced budget amendment.

PASS A BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT

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

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I had planned to address the House today to

talk about the fact that I cannot support a bailout of Mexico, that we have got to treat our neighbors to the south in the same way that we would treat our neighbors down the street. But I have been sitting here for the last 25 minutes listening to this discussion about Social Security.

This is the same discussion that we have heard year after year after year, most usually in an election cycle before a general election, when Republicans are accused of trying to cut Social Security. But has it happened? No, it never will, not in recent history, and the fact is that the only time that Social Security has been affected was when the Social Security taxable income was increased from 50 percent to 85 percent, and that was a proposal that was backed by the then majority, the Democrats.

So let us get the record straight here. Let us pass a balanced budget amendment today and send it on to the Senate.

NEW REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP ON RECORD AGAINST SOCIAL SECURITY

(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, there is a very good reason that we on the Democratic side continue to talk about the balanced budget and its implications for Social Security, and there is a very real sense of urgency about that this year as opposed to other years, because this is the first time that we have had the leadership of the House committed to changes and to the replacement of the Social Security system.

This is the article by Speaker GINGRICH where he calls for the replacement of Social Security, and we know others in the Republican leadership that have called that into question.

At the same time, they have refused to protect Social Security in the balanced budget amendment that they want this Congress and this House to vote on today. That is what is wrong with their proposal and that is why they refuse to tell the American people what is in their proposal to balance the budget.

They refuse to talk about the Medicare cuts that they have to make to balance the budget under their proposals, they refuse to talk about the implications for Social Security under their proposal, they refuse to talk about the Medicaid cuts for long-term care for elderly people in this Nation.

That is what is wrong with their proposal. That is why we have to keep reminding this Nation what is at risk, when Republicans who want to cut Social Security, replace Social Security, are in control of the levers of the power in this House.