

Mr. LONGLEY. Mr. Speaker, we need to move beyond the harsh rhetoric, the sound bites, the slick language that emanates from focus groups. We have got to be honest. Medicine is in deeper trouble than we realized before. It began losing money last year a full 2 years earlier than anyone had thought it would, and it will be bankrupt in just 5 years unless we find a solution and begin to spend smarter.

Mr. Speaker, this is not a partisan issue. Medicare is a program that is paid for by taxes on the wages of working people and by seniors through their premiums. We must find a solution to protect it, not only for current seniors but also for future generations. We owe it to our workers and our seniors and the needs of the future generations of this country.

Mr. Speaker, the key to the solution is to attack waste, fraud, and abuse. We need to spend smarter. If we can just slow the growth of Medicare by spending smarter, we can save the system and give seniors in Maine and across the country a better program. But what we cannot do is make Medicare a partisan issue.

COMMITMENT TO A BALANCED BUDGET

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

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I agree with my colleagues, we do not need to make Medicare a partisan issue. The problem that we have is that last year it was a partisan issue, and it continues to be.

Let me give you an example of how this administration is dealing with the Medicare crisis. Here in Congress we were unable to come up with an agreement on the Medicare insolvency, and yet there is a program called Operation Restore Trust not only in my State of Texas but a number of States. That program was just given over \$4 million last year, and yet it returned 10 times that amount to the Medicare trust funds.

I believe this is an area that we need to devote more resources. The President has requested \$597 million for antifraud activities, which is \$150 million more than current spending. Let us give him that in this budget agreement we are talking about today so we can deal with Medicare fraud.

The problem we have is that they will not do it. Last year they wanted to cut the effort for Medicare fraud, and that is where the seniors know that we can get the money to protect Medicare. There is no silver bullet for balancing the budget. You have to do it every day, every year, and leaving the scene of the battle is not the way to do it.

MR. PRESIDENT, WHATEVER HAPPENED TO THAT MIDDLE-CLASS TAX 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, every now and then, I like to thumb through my copy of "Putting People First" then-candidate Bill Clinton's book of promises to the American people. And I couldn't help but notice when I last picked it up that the centerpiece of the Clinton campaign was a middle-class tax cut.

Let me read a little bit from the section entitled "Rewarding Work and Families" middle-class taxpayers will have a choice between a children's tax credit or a significant reduction in their income tax rate." That was candidate Clinton speaking.

Well, candidate Clinton became President Clinton and that one-time champion of the middle-class soon began singing an altogether different tune. This Congress passed a middle-class tax cut; 89 percent of that tax cut would go to families earning under \$75,000 per year. President Clinton said no and vetoed it. He called it a tax cut for the rich.

Mr. Speaker, as President Clinton gears up to become candidate Clinton again, I think the American people might want to join me in asking him. "Mr. President, whatever happened to that middle-class tax cut?"

MAKING A DIFFERENCE BY LEAVING

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, most of America's eyes were focused on Washington yesterday, when a public servant of many years indicated he was through. Oh, yes, he is running for the Presidency of the United States of America, but, frankly, Mr. Speaker, I think he was through with a logjam Republican Congress, one that did not have the sense of temperament of a moderate approach to running this Government, of ensuring that there would be a balanced budget, but yet having the face of respect and love for senior citizens, for this budget of 1997 posed by the Republicans will cut Medicare, will make cuts of \$167 billion in Medicare.

Frankly, I hope we will benefit from Senator DOLE running against this Republican Congress. In fact, instead of providing for those working poor who have made a commitment not to be on welfare, they are cutting taxes to those who are the working poor by \$20 billion by decreasing the earned income tax credit. Yes; education is out again, 22 percent below the 1996 budget. Last, no more summer jobs for our youth, who want to make a difference in their lives.

Yes; I hope his leaving will make a difference in Congress.

STOP DRUG PRODUCTION AT ITS SOURCE

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

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, one of the major issues facing America today is drugs and crime that is caused by drugs. They say there is a war against drugs, but we really do not have a war against drugs, and if we do, we are losing it.

If we really wanted to deal with the drug problem, we would attack it not only here in our country and at the borders but at its source. In Peru and Bolivia, 90 percent of the world's coca is produced. Ninety percent, we know exactly where it is grown. We could take U.S. airplanes and use environmentally safe herbicides and fly over the fields and drop them, and within 1 to 2 weeks knock out 90 percent of the world's coca and crack. And yet we do not do it.

So today, Mr. Speaker, I would like to say to everybody in the House and administration, if we really want to have a war on drugs, let us attack it. Let us really win the war on drugs. Let us go to Peru and Bolivia and eradicate the drugs at its source. It will never get to our kids, it will not cause crime in America, and it will solve a big problem.

PERMISSION FOR SUNDRY COMMITTEES AND THEIR SUBCOMMITTEES TO SIT TODAY DURING 5-MINUTE RULE

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the following committees and their subcommittees be permitted to sit today while the House is meeting in the Committee of the Whole House under the 5-minute rule: Committee on Agriculture, Committee on Banking and Financial Services, Committee on Commerce, Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, Committee on House Oversight, Committee on International Relations, Committee on the Judiciary, Committee on Resources, Committee on Science, and Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

It is my understanding that the minority has been consulted and that there is no objection to these requests.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HASTINGS of Washington). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING AMENDMENT PROCESS FOR H.R. 3259, INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT, FISCAL YEAR 1997

(Mr. SOLOMON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, the Rules Committee is planning to meet today at 1 p.m. to report a rule for the consideration of H.R. 3259, the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1997.

The chairman of the Intelligence Committee has requested a rule which would require that amendments be preprinted in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. If this request is granted, amendments to be preprinted would need to be signed by the Member and submitted at the Speaker's table.

The amendments would still need to be consistent with House rules and would be given no special protection by being printed.

Members should use the Office of Legislative Counsel to ensure that their amendments are properly drafted and should check with the Office of the Parliamentarian to be certain their amendments comply with the rules of the House.

It is not necessary to submit amendments to the Rules Committee or to testify as long as the amendments comply with the House rules.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET, FISCAL YEAR 1997

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 435 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 435

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 1(b) of rule XXIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for further consideration of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 178) establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 1997 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, and 2002. No further general debate shall be in order. The concurrent resolution shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. The concurrent resolution shall be considered as read. No amendment shall be in order except those designated in section 2 of this resolution. Each amendment may be offered only in the order designated, may be offered only by the Member designated or a designee (except that if no Member offers the amendment designated in paragraph (3) of section 2, then that amendment shall nevertheless be considered as pending at this point), shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for one hour equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, and shall not be subject to amendment. All points of order against the amendments designated in section 2 are waived except that the adoption of an amendment in the nature of a substitute shall constitute the conclusion of consideration of the concurrent resolution for amendment. After the conclusion of consideration of the concurrent resolution for amendment and a final period of general debate, which shall not exceed 40 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Budget, the Committee

shall rise and report the concurrent resolution to the House with such amendment as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the concurrent resolution and amendments thereto to final adoption without intervening motion except amendments offered by the chairman of the Committee on the Budget pursuant to section 305(a)(5) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 to achieve mathematical consistency. The concurrent resolution shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question of its adoption.

SEC. 2. The following amendments are in order pursuant to the first section of this resolution:

(1) An amendment in the nature of a substitute by Representative Payne of New Jersey printed on May 15, 1996, in the portion of the Congressional Record designated for that purpose in clause 6 of rule XXIII.

(2) An amendment in the nature of a substitute by Representative Orton of Utah printed on May 15, 1996, in the portion of the Congressional Record designated for that purpose in clause 6 of rule XXIII.

(3) An amendment in the nature of a substitute by Representative Sabo of Minnesota printed on May 15, 1996, in the portion of the Congressional Record designated for that purpose in clause 6 of rule XXIII, which may be offered by any Member, or that failing, shall be considered as pending under the terms of the first section of this resolution.

SEC. 3. (a) If House Concurrent Resolution 178 is agreed to, then for all purposes of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 as it applies in the House—

(1) the allocations of spending and credit responsibilities that are depicted in House Report 104-575, beginning on page 158, shall be considered as the allocations otherwise required by section 602(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 to be included in the joint explanatory statement of the managers on a conference report to accompany a concurrent resolution on the budget; and

(2) the Congress shall be considered to have adopted House Concurrent Resolution 178 in the form adopted by the House.

(b) Upon adoption by the Congress of a concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 1997, subsection (a) shall cease to apply.

(c) This section supersedes section 603 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 with respect to the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 1997.

SEC. 4. Rule XLIX shall not apply with respect to the adoption by the Congress of a concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 1997.

□ 0945

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HASTINGS of Washington). The gentleman from New York [Mr. SOLOMON] is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, for the purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts [Mr. MOAKLEY], pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

(Mr. SOLOMON asked and was given permission to extend his remarks at this point in the RECORD and to include extraneous material.)

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this budget resolution is to set overall national priorities in how we spend the taxpayers' money. It is not the place to haggle over the details of Federal spending. The opportunity for

that will come later in the appropriation bills; and, of course, the reconciliation bills that will be brought up during June and July.

Because we are balancing competing priorities, Members submitting amendments to the Committee on Rules were asked to send up only complete substitutes for the budget of the United States, and they were asked to draft budgets which would lead to a balanced budget by the year 2002.

Mr. Speaker, this is the second year in which the Committee on Rules has demanded that every single budget proposal, every alternative, balance the budget, and that is the way it is going to be until we get that budget balanced.

Three complete substitutes were presented to the Committee on Rules, one by the Black Caucus, one by the group known as the Coalition, and one by the President of the United States. I was going to offer the President's budget myself and had brought it to the desk yesterday afternoon, but the gentleman from Minnesota [Mr. SABO], the ranking Democrat on the Committee on the Budget, assured us that he would be offering the President's budget this afternoon and, therefore, I withdrew my request to present the President's budget for debate.

This rule provides for a vote on each one of those alternatives, Mr. Speaker, as well as the proposal from our Committee on the Budget. Each of the three substitutes will be debated for 1 hour with the time divided equally between the proponent and the opponent. The substitutes will not be subject to further amendment and all points of order are waived to protect them.

After each of the three substitutes are debated and voted on, there will be a final 40 minutes of debate on the budget resolution that will naturally be equally divided between the chairman and ranking member of the Committee on the Budget. This rule includes a provision stating that the budget allocations in the report accompanying that budget resolution will be considered as the allocations required—and this is very important to Members, especially chairmen of committees and subcommittees—will be required by section 602(a) of the Budget Act until the final allocations are made in the conference report.

These allocations are important because they tell the Committee on Appropriations and the other committees how much money they have to spend for the next fiscal year.

Finally, the rule includes a provision stating that House rule 49 will not apply to this year's budget resolution. House rule 49 provides for an automatic engrossment of a bill raising the debt limit when the conference report on the budget resolution is adopted. In other words, in years past that has been automatic, but we have put a stop to that.

Since the debt limit has already been set, it will not be necessary to have a