

That's why I hope you will take a few minutes to read your fact sheet and let me know if you support getting rid of these departments entirely.

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Heritage does the hard work of looking at government, evaluating what it does and what it really costs. Their work is closely watched and quoted by all of the major networks and news organizations—which is no small feat when you know the press is mostly run by lifelong liberals.

When you send back your survey, please include a contribution to The Heritage Foundation to help them continue this painstaking work that we in Congress rely on so heavily.

Ed Foulner, Heritage's president, has told me that you have given \$25 to the Foundation.

I congratulate you on your generosity, and I urge you to give another \$25, or even \$75, to Heritage for this vital work.

As you know, The Heritage Foundation lives by the free market system they advocate. Heritage accepts no government funds and relies on voluntary gifts to support their work.

So please take a moment to read our fact sheet on shutting down the Departments of Education, HUD, Energy and Commerce forever. Tell us what you think by completing the survey and mailing it back today. In advance, I thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

BOB DOLE,
Senate Majority Leader.

P.S. I want to change how Washington taxes, spends and regulates.

But with Bill Clinton in the White House, true reform will not come easily. It requires all who want it to work together.

That's why I am working with The Heritage Foundation to restore our future by limiting government to its core functions such as national defense and fighting crime.

I want to start by cutting the Department of Education, Housing and Urban Development, Energy, and Commerce. This saves billions of your tax dollars immediately.

How do you feel about this?

Tell me today. Please complete the enclosed survey and return it to me at The Heritage Foundation. And your gift of \$25 or \$75 to help Heritage with this vital work is greatly appreciated. Thank you.

WOMEN'S PENSION EQUITY ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentlewoman from Oregon [Ms. FURSE] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Ms. FURSE. Mr. Speaker, life history is important. The history of a Member of Congress can give insight into a problem in our society. This is just such an occasion.

I think I can safely say that my work history has been very similar to that of

the majority of American women. I was a mother. I was a homemaker. I worked in my community for community change. I was a volunteer. I worked in a nonprofit. When I was divorced, my lawyer did not do what he should have done, which was make sure that the pension of my spouse was something that I would have been provided.

I continued to work in nonprofits and community organizations. It was not until I came to Congress that I ever got a job where there was a pension attached, and even that I cannot vest in. Well, Mr. Speaker, that is the situation for a majority of women, elderly women like myself in this country.

I am honored to be able to do something to fix this situation. Mr. Speaker, together with my colleague, the gentlewoman from New York, Mrs. NITA LOWEY, I have introduced the Women's Pension Equity Act. Some 60 percent of seniors are women, but they make up 75 percent of the elderly poor. Women are far more likely than men to live out their older lives in poverty, making those older years anything but golden. In my own State, I am sad to say that only 37 percent of the women in Oregon participate in a pension plan.

We need to make steps to fix this, take steps, that is what the Women's Pension Equity Act does.

Women in America need our help. They live longer than men and are five times as likely to be widowed than widowers over the age of 40. In the last 20 years, the number of women over the age of 45 who are divorced has risen dramatically. And 20 percent of older women have no other source of income than Social Security. It is a sad fact, Mr. Speaker, but elderly women are twice as likely as men to be poor. So that is why we need these pension reforms.

According to the AARP, only 23 percent of divorced women over the age 62 had pension plans of any type. My life history is just like that. Nearly 50 percent of married private pension recipients have a plan that will not continue to pay benefits in the event of a spouse's death.

There is a crack in our safety net, and it is women who are falling through it. The Women's Pension Equity Act will correct these inequities. My bill is modeled after the bill introduced by Senator CAROL MOSELEY-BRAUN. It will reform pension law to help protect senior women. First it will make much needed improvements in private pension law to help protect women in divorce proceedings and to simplify spousal consent rules for survivor annuities.

Mr. Speaker, it will make important changes to improve pension coverage for widows or divorced widows under the Federal Civil Service Retirement System as well as the military retirement system. And lastly, the legislation would improve coverage for divorced women under the Railroad Retirement Board.

Mr. Speaker, we must reverse the status quo, which dictates that, if you are old and a woman, you are poor. This legislation is about reforming the pension system to protect the economic security of elderly women. Women have worked hard their entire lives, serving their families, their careers, their communities, and they deserve nothing less than the best. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and work for its swift passage in the House.

IT IS TIME TO LOOK AT THE JONES ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Guam [Mr. UNDERWOOD] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend Chairman HOWARD COBLE, chairman of the Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation, for scheduling a hearing to review our maritime policy. In particular, this hearing will take a close look at the Jones Act, which requires that goods between American ports be shipped on American vessels.

The Jones Act might make sense for some mainland communities, but it does not make sense for Guam, 8,000 miles away from the west coast. Unfortunately for Guam, the defenders of the Jones Act form a unique coalition of labor and corporate interests who have every intention of fighting to preserve their corporate pork and their captive markets.

We need to study this issue carefully and, while we recognize a national need for a strong merchant marine, this objective should not be accomplished at the expense of small island communities or the American consumer. At the very least, Congress should examine the changing regulatory environment and the movement to free trade. We should consider which regulatory regime makes sense for the offshore domestic trades—complete deregulation, with full competition, or a regulated environment, with protections for the consumer against shipping carrier rate abuses.

Guam's position is that the Jones Act should not apply to territories outside the U.S. Customs Zone—and Guam is the only U.S. territory located outside the U.S. Customs Zone subject to the Jones Act. American Samoa, the Virgin Islands, and our good neighbor, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, are all exempt from the Jones Act. Guam seeks an exemption from the Jones Act consistent with the treatment of other U.S. Territories outside the U.S. Customs Zone.

I welcome the hearing on June 12 on this issue and I thank Chairman COBLE for inviting the Governor of Guam to help make our case before the committee.

My intern asked who the Jones Act is named for—well, it's not the John Paul

Jones who said "Don't give up the ship," it's the other Jones who might have said "Don't give up the shipping subsidy."

□ 1300

REV. RANDY ALBANO

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COBLE). Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Texas [Mr. BENTSEN] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the Reverend Randy Albano, who works in my district assisting seafarers throughout the world who travel to the Port of Houston, in their personal and spiritual needs. Father Albano recently brought to light the vicious murder of three Romanian stowaways beaten and thrown overboard from a ship off the coast of Spain and, through his contacts, was able to assure the safety of the vessel's crew members in bringing the responsible parties to justice.

Father Albano, working out of the Barbours Cut Seafarers' Center in LaPorte, TX, intervened with the Canadian Government on behalf of eight Filipino seamen who wrote to him that they had witnessed their officers murder three Romanian stowaways. Two of the Romanians were set adrift on a small makeshift raft after they were discovered, and the raft subsequently fell apart in the high seas, and the third Romanian was stabbed to death on the deck of the ship and then cast overboard.

The Filipino crewmen, fearing for their lives, contacted Father Albano for guidance. He referred the matter to the Canadian Government, which detained the captain in Halifax, NS.

I have contacted the Canadian Ambassador to express my concern that the Filipino seamen be granted refugee status and that the captain and officers of the ship be prosecuted for these unspeakable crimes.

I would especially like to express my deep appreciation for Father Albano for the important work that he does and also to the Barbours Cut Seafarers' Center and its many civic volunteers from LaPorte, including Lou Lawler. Father Albano, and the volunteers at the Seafarers' Center in Barbours Cut have done so much to ensure safe travel on the high seas and to improve working conditions and the quality of life for seafarers.

Once again, Father Albano has courageously helped to ensure that the rule of law and basic respect for humanity are observed on the high seas.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. There being no further requests for morning business, pursuant to clause 12, rule I, the House will stand in recess until 2 p.m.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 2 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

AFTER RECESS

The recess have expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. UPTON] at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

Rabbi Edward Davis, Young Israel Temple, Hollywood, FL, offered the following prayer:

Avinu Shebashamayim, Our Heavenly Father, we seek Your blessing for wisdom every day of our lives. Recognizing our limitations, we find it necessary to ask You for Your guidance. There are times when we feel incapable of solving our problems. Yet our vision is global and optimistic. We feel confident that with Your assistance we will be successful in creating and maintaining a safe and secure environment for our neighborhoods, our country, and our world. Bestow Your blessing upon the Members of this House. Grant them good health, family enrichment, financial security, and the wisdom to decide issues with prudence and compassion. These men and women make decisions that effect us all. May America be rewarded by our faith in them; and may our faith in You, O God, be strong. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Mississippi [Mr. MONTGOMERY] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. MONTGOMERY led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

STAND FOR CHILDREN

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

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues, this weekend in Washington, there was a march. It was entitled "Stand for Children." And I could not agree more that we should put politics aside and give our children a better nation than what we had inherited. If the President this year is willing to act and not just talk, I think that we can do this.

In my hand is the world's most expensive credit card. It is a credit card that has accumulated 5 trillion dollars' worth of debt and accumulating budget deficits of \$150 to \$200 billion a year. This a voting card for a Member of Congress. This is the most unconscion-

able thing that any government could do to its children, because the adults in our country will not pay this. It will be our children and theirs who get to pay off this massive debt.

Mr. Speaker, we can pass legislation this year that will balance the budget while at the same time providing \$500 more for parents with dependent children at home, lowering the average cost of a college loan by \$2,100, saving families over \$100 a month on their mortgage, and will provide real opportunities for children when they get out of school and look for jobs. All we have to do is balance the budget.

If the President really does feel the pain of kids today, he should put politics aside and begin to act.

MEDICARE CUTS PROPOSED

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow the Medicare trustees are going to issue their annual report to Congress and to the American people, and we already know that the Republican leadership is going to take advantage of this to try to suggest that the trustees' report justifies their severe and extreme changes in the Medicare Program for senior citizens.

I would suggest that the Democrats in the House of Representatives last year, with an amendment that was brought forward by the gentleman from Florida [Mr. GIBBONS] and this year in the budget that was proposed by the President that we voted on, suggested minor changes or cuts, if you will, in the Medicare Program that would keep the Medicare Program solvent well into the next century.

The extreme cuts and changes in Medicare that the Republicans are proposing are not needed. The Medicare trustees' report should not be an excuse to justify, if you will, the changes that the Republican leadership is proposed in Medicare. Rather, we should be getting together to make those minor cuts, if you will, to save the program and keep it solvent on a bipartisan basis.

A BALANCED BUDGET

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

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, no one doubts the importance of a balanced budget to America's families. But what we are doubting is President Clinton's commitment.

Well, the Senate vote this week on a balanced budget amendment is his chance to actually prove his commitment to a balanced budget. All he has to do is use his widely acclaimed oratorical skills, and lead the Somersault Six down the path to a balanced budget.

These Somersault Six are six Senators of his own party who had previously voted in favor of the amendment, but then switched their vote last