

a legacy that will continue for generations to come.

NAFTA IS NOT WORKING

(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 White House says NAFTA is creating new and exciting jobs. I did some research on those jobs: zipper trimmer, brassiere tender, jelly roller, bosom presser, chicken sexer, sanitary napkin specialist, and a pantyhose crotch closer machine operator. That is what I call exciting jobs, Mr. Speaker.

According to the Philadelphia Inquirer, they are so great that 90 percent of the American workers are literally worried sick about losing their jobs and losing their homes. Beam me up. I say NAFTA is working for Mexico, Chile, Canada, yes, even Japan and China. Think about it.

With that I yield back all the balance of those unsexed chickens.

BALANCED BUDGET AGREEMENT IS GOOD NEWS

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

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, when politicians get together and tell me what a wonderful job they are doing, I start to get nervous. But every once in a while, people on both sides of the aisle do manage to arrive at a good agreement.

Now, of course, the media will be annoyed; they need conflict. In fact, it is great fun watching the media desperately search for conflict in the balanced budget agreement that was reached between President Clinton and Congress. Even though the media hates good news, the good news needs to be reported.

The story that must be reported is that this balanced budget agreement is a win for every American family. It contains permanent tax relief, it contains the largest entitlement reform in history, it expands Medicare choices for seniors, it balances the budget for the first time since 1969. In a town where good news is sometimes hard to find, let us go forward and pass this historic agreement and send a little good news to American families.

RESTORE WIC FUNDING

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues on the Committee on Rules to support an amendment to restore the full \$76 million needed for the women, infants and children program. Let me make three important points about this funding.

WIC is a program that works. If we restore the \$38 million today, we will actually save the Federal Government over \$100 million down the road. Second, the States, not the administration, not the Democrats in Congress, the States say that they need this money or else they will be forced to remove women and children from the WIC Program.

Finally, let us remember the values that made this Nation great. We simply cannot in good conscience take food off the breakfast tables of the most vulnerable members of our society. I urge the Committee on Rules to allow this amendment. I urge my colleagues to restore the full amount of the President's authorization for women, infants, and children in this country.

DEFICIT SPENDING BAD HABIT NEEDS TO BE BROKEN

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

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, bad habits are hard to break. In fact, the longer one engages in a bad habit, the harder it is to break.

Deficit spending is an excellent example of a bad habit. Deficit spending means spending more money than we have. This is what the Government does year after year. If we add up all of the deficit, we will find out that the national debt now stands over \$5 trillion.

Washington has not managed to balance the budget since 1969. The tragedy in this is that the politicians who vote to run up deficits year after year are not the ones who suffer the consequences of their spending habits. Who suffers the consequences? You guessed it. Future generations, our children and grandchildren, the children are stuck with the debt. That is not right, that is not fair to children growing up today who deserve the same opportunities that we have.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to break the bad habit. It is time that this Congress pass a balanced budget.

BALANCED BUDGET AGREEMENT PLEDGE FOR BETTER TOMORROW

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

Mr. WICKER. Mr. Speaker, let's see if I have this straight. We are supposed to be impressed that the Government is not going to spend more money than it has. We are supposed to rejoice that Government is not going to make our \$5 trillion national debt any worse. I am supposed to brag to my constituents that Washington is finally going to balance the budget.

Well, Mr. Speaker, by Washington standards, a balanced budget is a cause for celebration. Balancing the budget should not be a big deal, it should not

be treated as some great achievement, but I must say after 30 years of an ever-expanding welfare state, balancing the budget is no mean feat. Balancing the budget, which to millions of Americans is nothing but common sense, is extraordinary in a town that has seen budget deficits since 1969.

This new balanced budget agreement is proof of two things. First, the new Republican Congress is serious about its pledge to make Government live within its means; and second, deficit spending does not have to be a way of life. That is a cause for celebration.

HISTORY OF DALLAS, GA

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

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I had the honor of appearing in Dallas, GA at a ceremony marking the 145th anniversary of this beautiful and wonderful community located in the heart of the 7th District of Georgia. Dallas, GA is named after a distinguished American, George Mifflin Dallas, a former U.S. Senator and Vice President of the United States under President Polk.

Dallas, GA has a quality of life, Mr. Speaker, that is an envy of communities all across America and around the world. This is especially true under the leadership of our current mayor, Mr. Boyd Austin, just recently and very appropriately named citizen of the year by the Paulding County Chamber of Commerce.

I rise today to honor this great American community whose greatest days lie yet ahead, Dallas, GA.

TIME TO BITE THE BULLET FOR BALANCED BUDGET

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, why is it so important to balance the budget? I get that question quite a bit when I speak to school groups back in my district.

Well, it is a fair question. After all, the economy has been doing OK lately and we have not had a balanced budget. Perhaps the best way to answer this question is to consider a person using a credit card who spends a little bit more than he makes each month. Every month when the bill comes, he pays off part of it, maybe just the minimum amount possible. Well, he can keep that up for a while, but eventually the mounting debt will overwhelm him and threaten his standard of living. The interest payments he is required to make each month just keep getting bigger and bigger.

Well, that is exactly what has happened to the Federal Government. A \$5 trillion debt that we have, unbelievable. It is time to get a grip. We need to balance the budget and start putting our financial house in order before it is too late.

Let us cut the tax rate on the American people. The people of this country are overtaxed. Let us do something about it and let us do it now.

OPPORTUNITY FOR BALANCED BUDGET IS HERE

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

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. Speaker, for a lot of us conservatives, the key question we are asking about the balanced budget agreement between Congress and the President is whether the agreement on the whole represents a step forward or a step backward. Does this bipartisan compromise bring us closer or farther away from our goals to balance the budget, provide tax relief for American families, and reduce the size of government?

Mr. Speaker, this is not a decision that I take lightly. I would like to see deeper tax cuts, more substantial entitlement reform, and more reductions in domestic spending. Nonetheless, we should not underestimate the opportunity this budget agreement represents.

Unlike past budget agreements that promised to balance the budget, with a Republican Congress, this one actually will. It contains permanent tax cuts, it takes a first step toward entitlement reform, and this represents a step forward.

I compliment the budget negotiators and look forward to receiving the details of this plan.

BALANCED BUDGET AGREEMENT IS SOLID FIRST STEP

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the House Committee on the Budget, I rise in strong support of the balanced budget plan of 1997. After months of unceasing work, the Republican majority has delivered a balanced budget plan where every American wins.

While all the details have not been worked out yet, like the level of funding for transportation, this agreement is a solid first step in the Republican goals of balancing our budget, reducing the size and scope of the Federal Government and providing permanent tax relief for American families.

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With this agreement, American families will pay \$135 billion less in taxes over the next 5 years. It will save Medicare for seniors, produce approximately \$700 billion in entitlement savings over the next 10 years, and finally, ensure that every American benefits from the economic boon of a balanced budget by 2002. That means lower interest rates, higher-paying jobs, and long-term economic growth.

Mr. Speaker, compromise is essential with divided government. I applaud those who achieve this compromise. I look forward to passing the balanced budget plan of 1997 and the accompanying bills, which will be a first step in getting our fiscal house in order.

DO THE RIGHT THING FOR WIC

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow the Republican leadership will have a chance to redeem itself and prove they are for America's children.

A few weeks ago in the Committee on Appropriations, Republicans largely voted to gut the women, infants and children's WIC nutrition program. Republican leaders denied the nutrition needs of approximately 880,000 at-risk children by not supporting the full funding request that was made by all 50 Governors and the administration.

Republican extremists are arguing that WIC does not need full funding. They would rather deny children their nutrition needs than make up the \$38 million shortfall. Mr. Speaker, many religious and antihunger advocates such as Catholic Charities, U.S.A., have written me citing that WIC is effective, efficient, and cost-beneficial. They are urging Congress to be compassionate to children, and meet their needs.

Mr. Speaker, let us do the right thing and get our priorities straight as we go into the budget process. In order to accomplish that, we need to fully fund the WIC Program.

A BUDGET FOR THE TAXPAYERS

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

Mr. COOK. Mr. Speaker, I think the middle class has been getting a raw deal long enough. It should be getting easier to start a family and to buy a house, not harder. It should be getting easier to save for college tuition for your kids, not harder. It should be getting easier to make ends meet, not harder.

So what is the problem? The problem is simple. It is the fact that Congress has not been presenting budgets that are balanced, and it is because Congress has been presenting budgets that raise taxes. I think it is time Congress does exactly the opposite. I think it is time the middle class got a break, instead of giving all the breaks to the special interest groups.

That is why this balanced budget agreement should be ratified. It should be supported and voted on here in the House. It lets American families keep a lot more of what they earn, and it balances the budget for the first time since 1969.

This is a budget for the forgotten middle class. I think it is time to pass

a budget for the taxpaying middle class.

A REALISTIC PROJECTION BY THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE

(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, the budget agreement that has been pretty much accomplished is nobody's gift to the conservatives or the liberals. It has good news and bad news. We now have a Federal Government that has become very big, very large, very intrusive—taxing too much and borrowing too much. This budget agreement moves us in the right direction of reducing some of those huge tax increases of 1990 and 1991 and reducing spending over the long run.

I questioned the analysis of the Congressional Budget Office in coming up with a last-minute \$225 billion. But in talking to CBO, they have predicted ups and downs, some recession in the economy, but the average estimated increase in the GDP over the next 5 years is 2.1 percent. Probably not over-optimistic.

I see some of the bad news as provisions in the agreement that only allows for a net tax reduction of \$85 billion over the next five years. However for the good news, there will be a tax decrease, a tax cut, over the next 10 years of \$250 billion.

Cut wasteful Government spending and we'll be moving in the right direction.

URGING MEMBERS TO READ AND CONSIDER "LETTERS FROM A CHINESE JAIL"

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

Mr. COX of California. Mr. Speaker, for nearly 20 years the Chinese Government has sought to silence one of the great advocates of human freedom and democracy, Wei Jingsheng.

Wei recently published a book. It is out today. Viking Press has produced it. It consists largely of his letters from prison, where he has spent so much of his adult life, where he is today, assembled by people who believe in human rights around the world. The publication of this book in America has today prompted the Communist Chinese Government to say that we, by publishing Wei's book, are interfering with the independence of China's judiciary.

Wei Jingsheng is not a well man. He suffers from life-threatening heart disease. He has a neck problem that prevents him from lifting his head. All of this has developed as a result of the abysmal conditions that he faces in prison, where he was recently sentenced to another 14 years. He is due to be released in the year 2009, if he lives that long.