

stepping up to the plate, and they are not going to reconstruct everything just as it was, to face the threat of flooding in the future. They want to remake this community. But in order to do that, we need to get on with the program that buys homes in the floodway and pays owners the cash they deserve so they can get on with their lives.

That would have been permitted under the Thune amendment to the disaster bill, had the rule passed. Had the rule passed, we would be debating that right now, and we would be that much closer in terms of getting relief back to those who need it.

Immediately following the disaster there was an outpouring of support across the country the like of which we have never seen in North Dakota. It was followed by the visit by the President of the United States on a Tuesday, the Speaker of the House on a Friday, and the majority leader of the House on the following Monday. Leaders of both political parties came into the area, expressing concern and support for the people as they tried to rebuild their lives. Those people are dealing with some problems that we cannot even imagine. We have to get after this disaster bill in order to address them.

Let me read to the Members a question presented to the city commission the other night at a tumultuous city commission meeting attended by more than 1,100 displaced homeowners: "What am I supposed to do? I have no place to live, I can't make my mortgage payment, I'm commuting 90 miles one way to work, my kids are living with relatives. Will I have a place to live in 3 months, 6 months, a year?" The only answer the mayor and city commissioners could give is, we do not know. Congress is deliberating a disaster package.

I hope that we do not stray from the initial inclination to make a strong bipartisan response in support of people who need help, people who have been devastated with natural disasters, including the floods in Grand Forks. I hope we can rise above the temptation that often so afflicts this body of falling into partisan recriminations and dealing with everything but the thing that ought to be before us. What is before us is disaster relief to people who need it. I urge both parties, all Members of this body, to pass a disaster supplemental bill just as fast as possible. My people really need the help.

INTERNATIONAL CHRONIC FATIGUE IMMUNE DYSFUNCTION SYNDROME AWARENESS DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York [Mr. FORBES] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today again to ask my colleagues to join with me in recognizing that Monday, May 12, was International Chronic Fatigue Immune Dysfunction Syndrome Awareness Day, a long name for

a disease that is relatively new and still unknown to too many physicians around the world.

Last night on this floor I provided a brief overview of the problems facing chronic fatigue syndrome, or CFIDS, and the dilemma that this debilitating disease poses for so many people. Now I would like to put more of a human face on this malady and share a few of the struggles of some of the individuals that I am privileged to represent on Long Island, a place that has an inordinate number of cases of chronic fatigue syndrome.

Mr. Speaker, as I stated last night, we have several individuals in our area of Long Island that do have an inordinate number of cases in that region. It is absolutely heartbreaking for me to talk with parents and children and neighbors and spouses, too many children, frankly, who suffer from the enduring pain and pervasive weakness brought on by chronic fatigue syndrome.

As Members can imagine, to see vibrant, energetic people stricken with a mysterious ailment that medical professionals frankly have not been able to figure out how they can cure, and too many, too many doctors believe does not exist or may be caused by some other malady is sad and it is confounding.

It makes these people who are suffering from this disease very, very angry, frankly, because it is enough to know that you are bone tired, that every joint in your body hurts, that you cannot lift your head off the pillow anymore, and to be basically dismissed by supposedly intelligent, well-trained physicians that it is depression, or it is something you just need to snap out of.

When we talk to these folks, we understand the very important dilemma that they face. I refer, for example, to Alison Burke, who comes from Coram, Long Island. She is a mother with two children, and she has been stricken with chronic fatigue syndrome. Unfortunately, the high preponderance of these cases actually affect women who are in their thirties, and too many children, as I said previously.

Before chronic fatigue syndrome Alison was an energetic mom with two children. She worked 30 hours a week for a dentist. Then one day she woke up feeling absolutely ill, like she had the flu. She went to the doctor and she had some tests taken, and they all came back normal. He told her she was fine, and he basically said, just snap out of it. Get over your depression. At this point she was just so very weak she could not even walk to the bathroom.

Instead of getting better, her symptoms seemed to get worse. It took all of her energy to just get out of bed and try to take care of her 2-year-old child. Her friends and her family even were getting angry and annoyed at her, wondering, why are you constantly bedridden? Why are you so tired? Why can you not go on with your normal duties?

Finally she found out that chronic fatigue syndrome might, and this was through a newspaper article, might just be the cause. She began attending group meetings, and from those meetings found a doctor, one of the rare doctors, frankly, who understood this disease.

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Barry Feinsod of Holtsville, Long Island, his wife was also stricken with chronic fatigue syndrome, and he wrote to me to say that for 6 years his wife has been unable to work. They have gone from doctor to doctor. She cannot even perform some of the most basic duties associated with living a normal life. It has destroyed the family's expectations and dreams for the future, and it has really posed a vexing problem.

Jeannette Crocken of Medford, Long Island, wrote me about her son Jason, who is also afflicted with chronic fatigue syndrome at the age of 10. Doctors did not know what was wrong, and, again, they spent 2 years going from physician to physician and testing that chronic fatigue was maybe the possibility. He has lost his hair, muscle pain, sore throat. It is this kind of vexing dilemma, Mr. Speaker, that really poses a great problem for the people affected and afflicted by this disease.

We spend tens of millions of dollars in very good research over at the National Institutes of Health for all kinds of diseases, hundreds of millions of dollars. Yet chronic fatigue syndrome has only gotten a paltry \$5 million, and there are well over, I would suggest, 2 million people, I have been told; and the number may be actually three times that who have just had the disease but not been diagnosed.

We need to do a better job of researching the symptoms. We know only that it sends the immune system into overdrive, Mr. Speaker. When we see the immune system being shut down, as it is by HIV positive and AIDS, we have to step forward as a nation. We need to do likewise and double the funding for chronic fatigue syndrome.

CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT FOR SUCCESSFUL INS PILOT PROGRAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GIBBONS). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California [Ms. SANCHEZ] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for an INS pilot program in the city of Anaheim, CA, which has successfully identified and deported criminal aliens in city detention facilities in my congressional district.

Yesterday the Immigration and Claims Subcommittee held a hearing to receive testimony regarding the program. The chief of police of the city of Anaheim testified about the success the city has had in removing criminal aliens from my congressional district.

I have consistently advocated that criminal aliens should be quickly and permanently deported. Not only do I support the permanent deportation of criminal aliens, I want them caught before they commit crimes and jeopardize our communities. Without Federal assistance in undertaking this law enforcement effort, criminal aliens could cause undue harm to women, men and children.

The Federal Government should do all it can to avoid burdening State and local police budgets with the cost of identifying, apprehending and deporting criminal aliens.

The pilot program in the city of Anaheim has resulted in a very successful track record of detentions and deportations of criminal aliens. Because I fully endorse the program's success, I contacted the INS and requested that the Anaheim portion of the pilot program be continued. The INS approved my request.

Because of my concerns, I have joined my colleagues in sending a letter to the Committee on the Budget requesting an increase in funding for the State criminal alien assistance program. This program reimburses State and local governments for the costs of incarcerating illegal alien felons. The Federal Government must not waste American taxpayer dollars to pay for the cost of incarcerating violent criminal aliens. We cannot afford to waste scarce law enforcement revenues.

As a fiscal conservative and in the light of the current budget roadblock, Congress must implement a cost-effective program that deploys INS enforcement officers in the most efficient manner. We need to ensure that more criminals are captured earlier and before they have done harm to our people in our districts and before they end up being a burden to our local law enforcement.

THE BUDGET AGREEMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. NEUMANN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. NEUMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to address the budget that is currently being discussed in Washington, DC, and maybe to clean up some misinformation that is floating around out here and provide some very basic elementary facts on what is included in the budget agreement that is currently being worked on and basically been agreed to, short a few final details.

Here is all this budget plan does that is currently being proposed. It balances by the year 2002, has declining deficits for each year starting 1998 and going forward, restores Medicare for a decade so our seniors do not have to go to sleep tonight wondering whether Medicare is going to be there tomorrow. It allows families, all Americans to keep more of their own money instead of sending it to Washington, DC.

This is done in four ways at least. The \$500 per child tax credit is in here.

Capital gains will be reduced, we are hoping, to a number below 20 percent. The death tax reform to allow people to not have to pass away and also see the taxman on the same day is in here. Also, we are hoping to provide a college tuition tax credit to help the many people across this Nation who are paying large college tuition bills this year.

Further, the budget plan does not adjust the CPI. This was a major concern to our senior citizens because, of course, lowering the CPI would reduce cost-of-living adjustments in the future. So there is no CPI adjustment in here. It was a major concern, and it has been addressed and is no longer part of it.

Also in the plan there is discussion and it is laid out exactly how to go about past 2002, paying off the Federal debt. And when we pay off the Federal debt, of course, that means that we also put the money back in the Social Security trust fund that has been taken out. I might add that it was brought to my attention this morning that as we pay off the Federal debt we would also be returning the money to the highway trust fund that has been spent over the last 10 or 15 years as opposed to dedicated to road construction.

As I am out here, there are a lot of things that have developed in this plan. There is an awful lot of misinformation floating around about it. But I think it is time that we look at some of the great things that have happened both under this plan in the last 2 years and how they compare to what happened prior to that.

In the 7 years before 1995, before the Republicans took over Congress, annual spending increases in overall Government was 5.2 percent. Government spending went up 5.2 percent every year. Since the Republicans have taken over in 1995 and as we look at this budget plan, 3.2. So it is a decrease in the amount of growth in Federal Government spending. In inflation adjusted dollars, it was 1.8, and it is all the way down to 0.6. It is a two-thirds reduction in the increases in real-dollar spending of this Government.

I heard some complaints that non-discretionary defense spending is going up too much in this plan. That is not really true either when we look at the facts. We look at the facts before 1995, nondiscretionary defense spending was going up by an average rate of 6.7 percent per year. And under this plan it goes up by 0.9 percent per year, less than 1 percent increase per year. In real dollars, it was 3.2 before 1995, and under this plan it is actually being decreased by 1.5.

A lot of folks talk about us using a rosy scenario to make it look like the budget is balanced. I have good news for everyone in this great country that we live in. The good news is they were not rosy scenario projections that led to the budget getting balanced. The growth in GDP is now being projected 0.2 percent lower than projections we

used in 1995. As a matter of fact, they are very conservative projections. And should the economy continue strong as it is today, the good news is we might very well, under this agreement, reach a balanced budget by 2000 or perhaps even 1999. That is how conservative the projections in this plan are.

One more point I would like to bring to the attention of my colleagues today. Back in 1995, we passed a budget resolution and we declared victory. We said that this is the best thing that could happen to this country because it is going to lead to a balanced budget. We had this idea that, if Government just controlled their growth, they reduced the amount of money they were borrowing out of the private sector, that that would lead to a strong economy in our country.

The theory was, if Government borrowed less, there would be more money available in the private sector. With more money available in the private sector, interest rates would stay low because of increased availability, and with interest rates low, people would start buying more houses and cars and the economy would boom. People would leave the welfare rolls and they would go back to work.

In fact, we find this is no longer a theory, but the model worked better than anyone anticipated. In the budget plan of 1995, we projected a deficit in 1997 of \$174 billion. It turns out this model worked so well that the deficit is all the way down to \$70 billion this year.

I would like to conclude with what I would call the miracle of 1997. I really do think this is a miracle. Before I came to Washington, I would have described this as a miracle. Here is the miracle of 1997.

Between our 1995 projections and today, \$100 billion of unanticipated revenue came in. That is, they collected more revenue because the economy is so strong, \$100 billion more than what was expected. The miracle is this, instead of spending that \$100 billion, every nickel of it went to deficit reduction; and, in fact, that is why the deficit is \$100 billion below what we anticipated back in 1995, when we passed the House budget resolution.

The end result, what this means for our families in America, it means that our kids can look forward to a bright future once again in this great Nation that we live in.

PERSIAN GULF WAR SYNDROME

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Vermont [Mr. SANDERS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I briefly wanted to discuss an amendment which I will be introducing as soon as the rule on the supplementary appropriation is fixed, which deals with an emergency situation for gulf war veterans who are really not getting the attention and the understanding that they need in