

agree with the Democrats: WIC is a win for Democrats, WIC is a win for Republicans, but WIC, most importantly, is a win for our Nation's children.

COMMENDATIONS TO PRESIDENT AND CONGRESS FOR COMING TOGETHER ON BALANCED BUDGET PLAN

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to again commend the leaders of Congress and the President for coming together on a consensus to balance the budget and to encourage them to keep up the work. This issue is too important to allow it to be sidetracked.

Although a lot of discussion here in Washington is about deficit reductions and long-term economic impacts, I have found many of my constituents and many Americans would like to know how the balanced budget plan affects them and their families. To these people I would say that the balanced budget agreement will have tremendous benefits to them, their families and generations to come.

Experts have predicted a balanced Federal budget will help to lower the interest rates in our country and our economy. Having lower interest rates means paying off our credit cards, buying a car, funding education, or buying a home becomes more affordable. A balanced budget means all Americans are one step closer to making these investments.

By placing the American dream within the reach of every American without creating more expensive government programs, we will bring our friends, families and communities closer. In short, Mr. Speaker, I want each and every one of my constituents in Illinois and every American to know that the balanced budget plan of 1997 benefits all Americans and helps all Americans to help themselves, which is truly the basis upon which our country was founded.

WIC PROGRAM MOST SUCCESSFUL PROGRAM FEDERAL GOVERNMENT EVER IMPLEMENTED

(Ms. CARSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to reiterate that prior to coming to Congress I heard the eloquent prose from Congress that underscored the need for this country to be en route to supporting policies that enhanced family values and that was cost effective and that would benefit Americans in general.

It was a shame, I felt, upon arriving here that the Republicans had proposed to reduce funding for the most vital program affecting families that this country has known, not only vital but

very effective, and that was the Women, Infants and Children Program.

I joined other colleagues in publicly denouncing that proposal that was designed to impose further pain on this country's children and that was to deny them opportunity for proper nutrition, thus propelling them into other medical problems, such as infant mortality, child anemia, and low-birth weight babies as a result.

I want to publicly thank the Republicans for hearing our cry and for hearing our plea and restoring that vital program to its full capacity.

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ADMINISTRATION'S ROLE IN BRAC QUESTIONED

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

Mr. LUCAS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I met with a number of National Guard members yesterday and we discussed their crucial role in our Nation's military. I find it slightly ironic that their visit coincided with news from the Pentagon that the administration is going to propose that we initiate another round of base closings.

I cannot help but make the connection that if the President had not circumvented the last round of base closings, the level of cuts that is being proposed would be unnecessary. If the reports are true, the administration will be asking the individual branches, including the National Guard, to substantially reduce their numbers, all to save money that could have been saved if BRAC had been followed by the President.

The purpose of a BRAC is to depoliticize the process and allow objective outsiders to recommend which bases should be closed based on a number of objective criteria. This process worked well until the President signed the bill, then ordered something quite different.

Another BRAC? Why does the President not start by respecting the decisions forwarded by the last BRAC?

WIC SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS FUNDING

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

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the women, infants and children's program and the long-term health of the low income women, children and infants that this program helps. This program is one of the most effective social government programs that we have for protecting the present and future health of many of our most vulnerable and needy children and mothers. I applaud those Republicans in this House who have chosen to do the right thing and work in a bipartisan manner to support the 200 plus Democrats who have demanded full supplemental funding levels for WIC.

The small amount of extra money to be allocated to WIC Program is a smart and cost-effective investment in the future of our country and its children. For every dollar that we invest in WIC, we save more than \$3 in Medicaid spending and other taxpayer costs down the road. The transfer of funds needed to ensure full funding for the WIC Program will prevent some 180,000 children, 160,000 in California, from being put at risk.

As the mother of a 6-year-old I know full well how important is the kind of nutrition and care for young children which will help them be ready for school and to work hard in their young lives. I support this WIC funding.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL RAY REID ON HIS RETIREMENT

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

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a man who has given this country more than half a century of loyal, dedicated service, first in the Army and then the U.S. House of Representatives. Col. Ray Reid, who retires today as my senior advisor, has served the third district of Arkansas for more than 20 years as chief of staff to my two predecessors, Senator Tim Hutchinson and former Congressman John Paul Hamerschmidt. Before he took on the responsibilities of Congress in 1974, Colonel REID had already served in three wars: Vietnam, Korea and World War II.

Well known to be one of the most knowledgeable men in Washington, Ray has held the respect of everyone who has ever come into contact with him, regardless of party affiliation or position. He is known as a straight shooter who deals with everyone fairly and forthrightly.

The people of Arkansas will sorely miss this man who has proven himself to be a dedicated soldier, a committed public servant, and a loyal friend. Ray, we wish you and your wife, Jean, the greatest happiness in your future endeavors.

WASHINGTON'S ROLE IN HELPING THE POOR

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

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, when I am home in my district I am sometimes asked, "What can you do for the poor?" I have two responses.

First, if the poor look to Washington to solve their problems or to make them rich, they will be as disappointed in the future as they are today, some 32 years after failed welfare state policies were begun. Mr. Speaker, we have 32 years of evidence that increased spending on Government programs does not end poverty, it perpetuates it.

On the other hand, my second response offers more hope. Washington

can pursue economic policies that will allow the poor to help themselves.

Washington can pursue economic policies that will make it easier for people to find jobs, will make it easier for people to find better jobs, will make it easier for people to buy a home, will make it easier for people to receive an education, will make it easier for people to get ahead. Policies that would do that include lower taxes, more commonsense regulation, less Government bureaucracy and, above all, a balanced budget. That is a program that will help the poor, not the failed promises of more Government and social spending.

THANKS EXTENDED FOR MAINTAINING WIC FUNDING

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, yesterday this House worked its will and rightfully defeated a flawed rule imposed by some members of the Republican leadership to restrict debate on the important women, infants and children's feeding program. Today those Members who refused to eliminate over 180,000 pregnant mothers, their low birth weight babies and children from their lifeline to nutrition will achieve a great victory. We will keep our promise to assure America's future by taking proper care of the children of today.

I personally want to thank those Republicans who heard our pleas and want to do what is right for America. I also want to thank the gentleman from Massachusetts [Mr. MOAKLEY] who worked so very hard in the Committee on Rules, the gentlewoman from New Jersey [Mrs. ROUKEMA] for her leadership, the gentlewoman from Connecticut [Ms. DELAURO], the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. ROEMER], the gentleman from New York [Mr. WALSH] and the gentleman from New York [Mr. FORBES], and I want to thank the gentleman from New York [Mr. SOLOMON], the chairman of the Committee on Rules, for bringing a revised rule to the floor today.

THE FIFTH OR FLEE? WHY IS THE WHITE HOUSE STONEWALLING

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

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, these are the six individuals about which the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight is seeking to obtain documents from the White House.

Three of them, former associate attorney general Webb Hubbell, Commerce Department official John Huang, and White House aide Mark Middleton, have all invoked their fifth amendment rights and have refused to cooperate with the committee.

The others, banking tycoon James Riady, Arkansas fundraiser Charlie

Trie, and Thai businesswoman Pauline Kanchanalak, left the country.

Mr. Speaker, the White House is continuing to stonewall us and has refused to hand over the key documents on these six people.

The House of Representatives has a right to know. The American people have a right to know.

GEKAS AMENDMENT THREATENS WIC FUNDING

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

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, last week I and others took the floor of this House to deplore the majority party's suggestion that 180,000 American women and children should be cut from the women, infants and children program. This program, WIC as it is known, is an extraordinarily effective program. It prevents low birth weight babies, it prevents anemic babies, it provides proper nutrition for women who are lactating to ensure that their babies grow to be strong and healthy. We were able to defeat that proposal last week, but now we have another proposal before us. An amendment to the supplemental budget that is up today would cut 500,000 women and infants from the women, infants, and children program. We need to marshal our forces once again. The Gekas amendment needs to be defeated. It should be defeated because it is shortsighted and mean-spirited. It would have the opposite effect of those who want to invest in the future of our country by investing in American families. Let us defeat that amendment and make sure that the women, infants, and children program continues to be an effective way to strengthen women, strengthen their children, and strengthen American families.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Sherman Williams, one of his secretaries.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1469, 1997 EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR RECOVERY FROM NATURAL DISASTERS, AND FOR OVERSEAS PEACE- KEEPING EFFORTS, INCLUDING THOSE IN BOSNIA

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 149 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 149

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 consideration of the bill (H.R. 1469) making emergency supplemental appropriations for recovery from natural disasters, and for overseas peacekeeping efforts, including those in Bosnia, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. An amendment striking lines 8 through 17 on page 24 shall be considered as adopted in the House and in the Committee of the Whole. Points of order against provisions in the bill for failure to comply with clause 2 or 6 of rule XXI are waived except as follows: page 3, line 1, through line 9; page 10, line 3, through line 15; page 26, line 8, through line 15; and page 33, line 14, through page 34, line 19. Before consideration of any other amendment it shall be in order to consider the amendments printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each amendment printed in the report may be considered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against the amendments printed in the report are waived. During consideration of the bill for further amendment, the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole may accord priority in recognition on the basis of whether the Member offering an amendment has caused it to be printed in the portion of the Congressional Record designated for that purpose in clause 6 of rule XXIII. Amendments so printed shall be considered as read. The Chairman of the Committee of the Whole may: (1) postpone until a time during further consideration in the Committee of the Whole a request for a recorded vote on any amendment; and (2) reduce to five minutes the minimum time for electronic voting on any postponed question that follows another electronic vote without intervening business, provided that the minimum time for electronic voting on the first in any series of questions shall be fifteen minutes. During consideration of the bill, points of order against amendments for failure to comply with clause 2(e) of rule XXI are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment, the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and any amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

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

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose 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. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentlewoman from Maryland [Mrs. MORELLA].