

to cosponsor both of these measures, and I also encourage support for every other legislative initiative which would help law enforcement officers and the families of those who risk life and limb to promote law and order in our communities, in our States, and in our Nation.

BALANCED BUDGET AGREEMENT SHOULD REFLECT DEMOCRATIC FAMILY FIRST PRIORITIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. PALLONE] is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I want to say that I know that the hour is late and I do not intend to use much of the 60 minutes this evening, but I did want to take to the well tonight, to take to the floor to talk about what I expect to be happening here on the floor of the House next week, and that is when the Republican leadership brings up the budget.

I think as my colleagues know, there has been a proposal that in its broad outlines has been agreed upon by both President Clinton and the Republican leadership, and there will be a budget resolution most likely adopted on the House floor at some time next week.

However, as a Democrat I am very concerned about the need for this budget to reflect Democratic priorities. Over the last year, at least since June of 1996, the Democrats have outlined a Family First agenda that includes prioritization, if you will, of education, health care, environmental and other needs for the average American family. The President clearly articulated those priorities during the negotiations over a budget agreement, and I know fought very hard to make sure that those priorities were included in the balanced budget proposal.

The fact of the matter is, however, that many of us on the Democratic side are concerned that the end result may not reflect some of these Democratic priorities. Already Members of the Republican Party are stating that there is no guarantee, for example, that they will include Democratic education initiatives in the budget reconciliation process. As the budget discussions continue, my goal and our goal is to further an agenda that helps the average American family.

Without getting into all the bureaucracy of the budget process, the budget resolution, which will be presented most likely next week on the floor of the House, is basically a broad outline or plan about what the budget agreement should be. But after that is passed, and once it finally is agreed to by both Houses, there will be a fleshing out, if you will, of the spending priorities through the various appropriation or spending bills. There will also be a reconciliation act that will essentially tie together the spending with any tax

cuts, and there is also likely to be a tax package that will essentially put together and be more specific about the various tax cuts that are proposed.

What I would like to do is to basically outline if I could, very briefly, what President Clinton sees and what I see as a Democrat and most of us as Democrats feel that the balanced budget agreement should accomplish. To the extent that it does accomplish these Democratic priorities, it is something that all of us or most of us can support. But we have to keep the feet to the fire, so to speak, on the Republican side, and particularly the Republican leadership, to make sure that this balanced budget agreement does make good, so to speak, on the promises that reflect the concerns of the average American.

The critical investments, if you will, that the President has talked about achieving in this balanced budget agreement relate to education, health care, and the environment. There is also a very real need to make sure that Medicare and Medicaid are strengthened and modernized so that they are available and they are solid programs, they are solvent, if you will, into the next century.

The balanced budget agreement should cut the deficit 63 percent. Well, I should say that actually over the last few years we have succeeded in cutting the deficit 63 percent, from \$290 billion in 1992 to \$107 billion last year. But the idea is that this balanced budget agreement would essentially finish the job and achieve a truly balanced budget with no deficit by the time that the 5-year period that it is including is ended.

I want to talk about some of these priorities, though. We call them the Democratic Family First priorities that the budget needs to reflect.

With regard to education, the President's initiative says that every 8-year-old can read, every 12-year-old can log on to the Internet, and every 18-year-old can go to college. The education initiatives are really in many ways the most important Democratic priority that we have been trying to achieve.

The way to achieve this is essentially to provide the largest Pell grant increase in 2 decades, 4 million students to receive a grant of up to \$3,000, an increase of \$300 in the maximum grant; tax cuts, and here again there are tax cuts and there are tax cuts. Tax cuts that we as Democrats would like to see would be targeted to higher education, to make college more affordable for the average American.

Now, if we have tax cuts that emphasize the education, higher education programs, then that certainly makes sense as part of this overall agreement. On the other hand, if the tax cuts are mainly targeted to help corporate interests or to help wealthier Americans, then we will not achieve a balanced budget that works to help the average working person.

We have also talked about expansion of health care to achieve for the first

time coverage for about 10 million uninsured children in this country. There are about 10 million children that are uninsured and the numbers keep growing. It is estimated that by the year 2000 it would be as high as 12 million children. So the President has included as part of this balanced budget program essentially Medicaid improvements and a grant program has been suggested that provides additional dollars to supplement States' efforts to cover uninsured children and working families.

Last night on the House floor I specifically talked about the kids' health care initiative that the Democratic task force that I cochair has put together, that would try to achieve, within the context of this budget agreement, coverage for as many as possible of the 10 million children who are now uninsured.

It is also very important that this budget strengthen environmental protection and enforcement. The President has talked about accelerating Superfund cleanups by almost 500 sites by the year 2000. He has talked about expanding the brownfield redevelopment initiative to help communities clean up and redevelop contaminated areas through this brownfield proposal, and also to boost environmental enforcement to protect public health from environmental threats.

I have often said that it does not make much sense to have good environmental laws on the books if you do not have adequate enforcement, and enforcement means money. We have to have investigators to go after the polluters, we have to have those enforcement officers who will impose fines and make sure that polluters are brought to justice.

So again, the priority under this balanced budget agreement has to include a major environmental component.

Also, in the aftermath of the President's welfare reform that was signed into law last year, there needs to be, and the President has talked about a welfare-to-work tax credit to help long-term welfare recipients get jobs, and also the need to restore disability and health benefits for legal, as opposed to illegal immigrants in this country.

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Right now under some of the provisions that were passed last year by the House and Senate and signed into law, there are legal immigrants who do not have access to certain benefits, such as Social Security disability, Medicare, Medicaid, depending on their circumstances. All these Democratic priorities, if you will, need to be incorporated as part of this balanced budget, if it is really going to achieve success to help the average working American.

I think that I cannot emphasize enough that there are essentially three goals here. One is to make sure we do have a balanced budget, which we all, I think, in this House are very much in

favor of, whether we are Democrats or Republican.

Second is to make sure that the priority spending on health care for kids, on education, on environment, on some of the other areas that the Democrats have outlined as part of their Families First agenda, that these priorities are where the spending or where the dollars go under this budget agreement.

Last, but certainly not least, is that the tax credits or the tax cuts, if you will, are primarily targeted, again, towards the needs of the average American. There is proposed a child tax credit to make it easier for families to raise their kids; tax cuts, again targeted to higher education, to make college more affordable. The President has talked about not only expanding the Pell grant, but also providing a certain amount of deductibility, that parents would be able to deduct for college tuition they pay for their children.

There is also a HOPE scholarship program for the first 2 years of college if you maintain a B average; that you would have, I believe, \$1,500 a year made available as a scholarship to pay for your tuition or education expenses.

There were also provisions that the President has talked about to establish additional empowerment zones and enterprise communities. But again, the issue here is whether or not this budget agreement, not necessarily the resolution that we deal with next week, but even beyond that, the so-called budget reconciliation bill, where the actual taxes and the cuts and credits will be struck, and where, in the appropriation bills, where the actual spending will be indicated, these need to reflect the Democratic Families First priorities. They need to have tax cuts that will help the average person and not just the wealthier elements in our society.

My point tonight, and this is a point that I and others I am sure will be making over the next few weeks or next few months as we delve into the budget in its various aspects, is that a balanced budget agreement that does not reflect the priorities of the average American, does not provide tax cuts that help the average working family, really is of no value.

That is what we want to see as Democrats. We want to see the budget balanced, we want to see the priorities that are important for the average American, and we want to see tax cuts and tax credits that will help the average American as we move forward and we prioritize our spending needs in this Congress.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. PALLONE) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. BROWN of Florida, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. DELAURO, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. MCINNIS) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. UPTON, for 5 minutes each day on today and May 16.

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut, for 5 minutes each day on today and May 16.

Mr. HORN, for 5 minutes each day on today and May 16.

Mr. SHAYS, for 5 minutes on May 16.

Mr. PAPPAS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. FORBES, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PAUL, for 5 minutes on May 16.

Mr. RAMSTAD, for 5 minutes each day on today and May 16.

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

By unanimous consent, permission to revise and extend remarks was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. PALLONE) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. CLYBURN.

Mr. BROWN of California.

Mr. KENNEDY of Massachusetts.

Mr. CALVERT.

Mr. COSTELLO.

Mr. GILLMOR.

Mr. BISHOP.

Ms. GRANGER.

Mr. MCINTYRE.

Mr. PACKARD.

Mr. ENGEL.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. MCINNIS) and to include extraneous matter:)

Mr. RADANOVICH.

Mr. HYDE.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER.

Mr. ROHRABACHER.

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN.

Mr. PITTS.

Mr. BILIRAKIS.

Mr. FORBES.

Mr. EHRLICH.

Mr. POMBO.

Mr. BOEHLERT.

Mr. MICA.

Mr. GILMAN.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. PALLONE) and to include extraneous matter:)

Mr. NADLER.

Mr. HAMILTON.

Mr. LEVIN.

Mr. WEXLER.

Mr. VISCLOSKEY.

Ms. BROWN of Florida.

Mr. STOKES.

Mr. POSHARD.

Mr. HALL of Ohio.

Mr. BORSKI.

Mrs. LOWEY.

Mr. MENENDEZ.

Ms. PELOSI.

Ms. DELAURO.

Mr. POMEROY.

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas.

Mr. GEJDENSON.

Mr. STARK.

Mr. BARCIA.

Ms. HARMAN.

Mr. ACKERMAN.

Mr. WAXMAN.

Mr. KUCINICH.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.

SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 670. An act to amend the Immigration and Nationality Technical Corrections Act of 1994 to eliminate the special transition rule for issuance of a certificate of citizenship for certain children born outside the United States.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 3 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, May 16, 1997, at 9 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XXIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

3324. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Emamectin Benzoate; Pesticide Tolerances for Emergency Exemptions [OPP-300490; FRL-5718-1] (RIN: 2070-AB78) received May 13, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

3325. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Carbon Disulfide; Pesticide Tolerances [OPP-300487; FRL-5716-8] received May 14, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

3326. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Propamocarb Hydrochloride; Pesticide Tolerance for Emergency Exemptions [OPP-300489; FRL-5717-5] (RIN: 2070-AB78) received May 14, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

3327. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Clopyralid; Pesticide Tolerance for Emergency Exemptions [OPP-300491; FRL-5718-2] (RIN: 2070-AB78) received May 14, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

3328. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Pyridaben; Pesticide Tolerance [OPP-300492; FRL-5718-4] (RIN: 2070-AB78) received May 14, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

3329. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information,