

actually happen, and I would urge my colleagues to work hard to make education the top priority of this Congress.

BALANCING THE BUDGET IS A MATTER OF COMMON SENSE

(Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, a lot of people when they hear that the country's national debt is over \$5 trillion asked me how did we get into such a mess? Have the politicians in Washington totally lost their minds?

Mr. Speaker, while I cannot comment on the mental state of Washington politicians, I can say a few words about passing on a \$5 trillion debt to future generations.

I think it is wrong. I think balancing a budget is not so much a spectacular achievement. Rather, I consider it a matter of common sense. I suppose that says a few things about how much common sense there has been in Washington in recent decades.

And so while I support a balanced budget amendment, the one that Congress passed earlier this week, I really do not want to tire myself out by patting ourselves on the back. On the other hand, maybe allowing common sense to win the day in Washington is something to cheer about. Last time I checked, the budget had not been balanced since 1969.

Mr. Speaker, I will keep some champagne ready.

FIGHTING FOR DEMOCRATIC PRIORITIES IN THE BUDGET

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

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, let us be perfectly clear about this budget agreement. It is far from over. Now that the framework has been decided by this body, it is time to talk about priorities.

The Democrats' priorities are to educate our children. First we want full funding for WIC, then we fought tooth and nail to protect funding for Pell grants, bilingual and immigrant education, Head Start, and child literacy. Now we must force the Republicans to make good on this agreement.

The Republican agenda is just as clear. They continue to brag that their number one concern is cutting taxes for the richest people in this country.

Mr. Speaker, is this what the American people want? When they want to know why our schools are crumbling to the ground and our students are not learning to read, is there a Member in this Chamber who will look them in the eye and tell them that tax cuts for the wealthy are more important?

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POLITICS IS A FUNNY BUSINESS

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

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, politics is a funny business. Not too long ago, we were told that we could not balance the budget and cut taxes for working Americans. Well, the surprising thing is that most Americans never believed that nonsense. Most Americans knew that Washington could get by on less and that American families ought to get by on more. Business as usual here in Washington meant that every year the taxes went up, the Federal Government got bigger and people grew more and more frustrated.

What did the politicians in Washington have to show for these tax and spend habits? A national debt of over \$5 trillion. It has been a long time coming, but finally the American people have said enough, enough to irresponsible spending, enough to the tax policies that are holding America back. This balanced budget agreement is a far cry from what needs to be done to stop Washington from its wasteful spending ways, but at least it will bring the budget into balance by the year 2000, and it will make Washington spend a little less so that American families can spend a little more. It is about time.

AMERICANS HELD HOSTAGE BY THE REPUBLICAN MAJORITY

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Americans held hostage by the Republican majority; 1 million-plus children in Texas and counting, without health insurance. Ten million children in this country and counting, without health insurance, with no legislation by this Republican majority being brought to the floor of the House to remedy this tragedy. Flood victims in the Dakotas and across the Nation being held hostage without being able to have the emergency relief dollars that they are in need of.

Women, infants, and children being held hostage, 360,000 of them, not able to have the WIC Program that provides them with nutrition. Three hundred sixty thousand less Pell grants, 31,000 less work study jobs for our young people, and 483,000 less teachers, teaching valuable needed reading and math skills to our children.

What are we going to do? Release the hostages. Begin to do legislation that works for the American people. Provide health insurance for our children, and yes, take care of the flood victims in the West. Release this legislation, get us out of this hostage situation.

DISRUPTION SHOULD NOT DETER AMERICA'S DREAMS

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

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I daily give thanks for this institution where we are free to express different ideas and opinions.

It is worth noting that my distinguished colleague from Texas offered precisely that: Her opinion based on spurious facts, claiming damage to people that simply does not exist.

Sadly what we see, Mr. Speaker, is the disgruntled fringe of the left terribly, terribly upset that at long last there is a new consensus—

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. HAYWORTH. In American politics of people working together—

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Would the gentleman yield?

Mr. HAYWORTH. To give tax relief to working families.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE. Would the gentleman yield?

Mr. HAYWORTH. To help people get everything they can get in terms of their own livelihoods, their own ambitions—

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. I see the gentleman does not want to yield.

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, within the Rules of the House, if I might suspend for a second, within the Rules of the House, I would ask to be allowed time to finish my remarks, for I was interrupted and the gentlewoman failed to suspend.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina). That time does not come out of the gentleman's time. The gentleman from Arizona has the time.

Mr. HAYWORTH. I thank the Speaker very much.

I would say to my colleagues, we have another example of people more interested in disrupting the institutions and agreements than working for honest and open debate.

DEMOCRATS WILL BE WATCHING THE BUDGET FOR AMERICA

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, yesterday in the wee hours of the morning this body passed a balanced budget resolution. The plan, please understand, provides a rough blueprint. Now we get the opportunity to work out the details of this budget.

As we head into the process, Democrats are going to be watching carefully to make sure that this budget gives every, every working man and woman a shot at the American dream, and the right to a quality education has always been an essential part of that dream. So, the Democrats are going to be fighting to make sure that

this budget does the right thing for American families.

Getting young children ready to learn with strong investments in Head Start and an early start, looking at educational standards so that American children can read and write and compute, boosting school construction and repair initiatives so our kids are not sitting in crumbling schools, and helping families to afford college and vocational training through getting tax relief, and larger Pell grants. We are going to be watching the tax relief package very closely so that the richest 1 percent of Americans are not the beneficiaries, but that in fact working Americans, small businesses and small farmers are the beneficiaries. That is where the Democrats stand, for working families.

TIME TO LOOK AHEAD

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, despite some obvious unhappiness on the far left, the balanced budget agreement passed yesterday on a vote, a bipartisan vote, of 333 to 99, an overwhelming number of Democrats and Republicans passed this. It is a budget that balances by 2002. It provides permanent tax relief for the middle class, \$500 per child tax credit. Medicare is safe from bankruptcy and solvent completely until the year 2007.

We have to look ahead. We, together, on a bipartisan basis need to work for a drug-free America. Drugs are a poison to society, they are involved with crime, violence, spousal and child abuse. We have to address drugs on a bipartisan basis.

We have to look forward to education, but the focus on the classroom and learning, and not on the Washington bureaucracy. We also have to look at out-of-wedlock pregnancy. For 15 years the number of out-of-wedlock births has almost tripled. Over 70 percent of all juveniles in State reform institutions were raised in fatherless homes.

These are the challenges that lie ahead. We can work best on a bipartisan basis to work toward solutions.

DISAPPOINTMENT FOR AMERICAN CITIZENS

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

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, how disappointed the American public must have been on Thursday night when they saw the Republican leadership and the President of the United States come together to work the budget bill so to deny American communities the right to build the bridges and the highways that are so necessary if we are not going to con-

tinue to choke on the traffic. How disappointed the American public must have been when last night they learned that the Republican leadership and the Senate and the President of the United States came together to deny health care to millions of America's children for the sake of the budget agreement. How disappointed they must have been to see these two working hand in hand to deny us the ability to deal with the infrastructure problems of our communities and the health care of our children.

So much for that bridge to the 21st century, and so much for the healthy children that we are supposed to walk across it.

THE BORDER IS OUT OF CONTROL

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

Mr. BILBRAY. Mr. Speaker, there is a lot of discussion this morning about the budget, and the Democrats and the Republicans going back and forth here.

Let me ask my colleagues on the other side of the aisle and my colleagues on this side of the aisle to consider one thing that happened this week that has not been talked about here on the House floor.

A young man was sitting in his vehicle doing his job for the United States this week at 3 o'clock Saturday night, and somebody on the other side of the Mexican border took a high-powered rifle, walked on to an overpass, and fired 17 rounds at this young man in his twenties. One bullet grazed his head, the other went through his left shoulder and the flying glass through his windshield took out, maybe has lost his left eye.

I only say this so my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, as we debate back and forth, are sensitized of the fact of reality out along our frontier. I ask all of my colleagues to remember that this man was doing his job for us, and there was an assassination attempt on this individual with a high-powered rifle from a foreign country.

The border is out of control, I say to my colleagues. If we think that we have problems here, please come and look at that. I say this: This is one of five instances in the last few weeks where an officer has had to use a firearm to protect themselves. Please join, both Democrats and Republicans, to address this issue comprehensively.

WE MUST DO A BETTER JOB OF PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN

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

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, my home State of Texas and sadly, all of America, is suffering from a rash of child abductions. In the Ninth District community of Friendswood, the Smith family buried their 12-year-old daughter, Laura, last month. In

Killeen, TX, the Thompson family buried 7-year-old DaNydia. Each of these little girls were abducted by strangers and murdered.

We must do a better job of protecting our children, sometimes even from their parents. Three-year old Bianca Isabella Lozano was abducted April 7, 1996, from Baytown, TX, another town in my district. Authorities believed she was kidnapped by her own father. Her mother and her family do not have any idea if she is OK or not. I have printed her picture and vital statistics on my office envelopes in hopes that someone has seen her and can point the authorities in the right direction.

We have formed the Missing and Exploited Children's Caucus to do what we can to help families like Bianca's. I urge my colleagues to join.

WE SHOULD ALL HAVE HAPPY FACES

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

Mr. EWING. Mr. Speaker, I come here with a happy face today because of the work that we have done this week on the budget agreement. We ought to all have a happy face and a big smile. I am a little surprised at the world-is-falling attitude on the other side of the aisle.

The balanced budget amendment passed by over 330 votes out of this House, putting into law an agreement between the Democratic President and the Republican Congress, to move this country ahead to a balanced budget, to provide necessary services, and yes, to provide what the American people believe they cannot afford from Government.

When we hear from the other side of the aisle about all the things that are not in this budget, we realize how out of touch they are with the American people, who realize there are limits to what we can do with one's family budget, with one's State budget, with the Federal budget. Let us all be happy we are making great progress.

IT IS ALL ABOUT JOBS

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

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, consider for a moment a rich person. A rich person has two basic choices as to what he can do with his money, he can save it or he can spend it.

Now suppose that he has \$100,000 of income that he is completely free to dispose of as he wishes. If he spends that \$100,000 on a luxury car or a new yacht, that is very good for the economy. In fact, it is very, very good for the economy to have as many rich people as possible.

But while spending \$100,000 is a good thing for the economy, if he saves the \$100,000 instead of investing in stock,