

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 Smither 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,

for example, that is even better for the economy. Why is that? Because businesses that wish to expand to modernize and to grow need that investment money. When a company expands or a new company is started, jobs are created.

So I want to give rich people an incentive to save more of their money instead of spending it. That is why it is so important for the economy to cut the tax on savings and investment. It is all about jobs.

□ 1030

A BUDGET AGREEMENT THAT TAKES AMERICA IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

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

Mr. THUNE. Mr. Speaker, the balanced budget agreement that was reached here the last few days and hours is not just financially sound, it is also philosophically sound, because it begins to address some of the fundamental problems and inequities in our tax system.

In this country we value our families and our children, yet our tax system punishes those who want to start a family. This plan promotes families by providing a child tax credit. In this country we value frugality and saving for a rainy day, yet our current tax system punishes those who save. The budget agreement promotes saving by providing for expanded IRA accounts, and gives incentives for those who want to put away for retirement.

Finally, in America we are taught to value hard work and the things that go with it, like being able to provide for our children when we are gone. The death tax punishes those who try to pass their property on to the next generation. This budget agreement would allow one to pass more on to their children before they have to pay taxes on it.

This budget agreement takes America in the right direction. I think that is evidenced by the fact that over 300 Members of this body, over 75 percent of this institution, supported it. I urge my colleagues in the Senate to do the very same thing and to support it.

AMERICA WANTS MEMBERS TO COORDINATE TO BALANCE THE BUDGET

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

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, many people ask me, how can you come to an agreement on the balanced budget with a President whose vision for America is so much different than your own? That is a fair question. I think we should address that this morning.

The answer, of course, is with great difficulty. It is no secret that the

Democrats and Republicans have honest fundamental differences in our view of the role of government in our lives. It is no secret that the Democrats want government to have a greater role in our lives, and Republicans think that the Government's role is far too great.

It is no secret that the Democrats want to increase the size and power of government. Republicans want to reduce it. It is no secret that the Democrats think that more government can help to solve the problem of poverty. Republicans think that far from ending poverty, government welfare programs perpetuate it.

Mr. Speaker, we disagree on matters of principle, but the American people have asked us to work together to balance the budget. Let us go forward and carry out their wishes.

A BALANCED BUDGET AND A SMALLER GOVERNMENT

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

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, what a difference 4 years makes. Four years ago the President proposed the largest tax increase in U.S. history, the largest entitlement expansion in American history, and the strongest, clearest signal in U.S. history that big government, in their way of thinking, was truly the answer to all of our problems. This was in exactly the opposite direction from where many of us from across the country believe this Nation must be headed.

Now, 4 years later, I am happy to see that a majority of Americans and a majority of this Congress on both sides of the aisle agree that a reasonable government, as opposed to big government, is the way to tackle some of our more difficult problems.

Mr. Speaker, this country has been going in a direction of bigger government and higher taxes for the past 30 years. We have now signaled with action this week in passing a balanced budget, the first time in 30 years, we have signaled that we are ready to own up to our responsibilities as a Congress, Democrats and Republicans united, to pass a balanced budget. I commend the House and all my colleagues.

REPUBLICANS KEEP THEIR WORD TO AMERICA

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

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, there is something strange that has been happening here in the Capitol over the last 2½ years, something that we have not seen for quite a while. It is a group of politicians who are actually keeping their word.

In the fall of 1994, we laid out for the American people our set of promises in the Contract With America that we

would balance the Federal budget, that we would reduce taxes, we would solve the problems in Medicare, that we would deal with illegal immigration and reform it, that we would reform welfare. Guess what? All of those things are happening.

In 1995 and 1996 we had the most successful Congress in 20 years. Now, with our agreement to balance the Federal budget, to reduce taxes for American families, and to preserve and protect Medicare, we are continuing to keep the promises that we made to the American people. It is something that I am proud of in terms of my colleagues and their commitment to do what they said they would do. We are going to keep our promises.

FOREIGN POLICY REFORM ACT

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

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise in support of our Foreign Policy Reform Act, which will be coming before the House next month. This bill is the first Republican-led foreign policy blueprint since our party wrote the Marshall plan legislation some 40 years ago.

The bill will consolidate two Federal agencies into the State Department, saving a number of employees. It will choke off aid and nuclear fuel for the Castro dictatorship, it will block aid to Russia until it stops its help to Iran, and it nails deadbeat diplomats, making sure they would be prosecuted either here or back in the host country.

This bill was endorsed by major PVOs and 40 major groups, including Mothers Against Drunk Driving and many of our Irish groups. Driving this measure are a number of organizations that are supportive of what we are doing. Accordingly, I urge my colleagues to support the Foreign Policy Reform Act that will be before us early next month.

COMMENDING EFFORTS OF COLLEAGUE TO FIND MISSING CHILDREN

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

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I just want to real quickly say that the gentleman from Texas [Mr. LAMPSON] ought to be commended for what he is doing in trying to find missing children. I think that should be an example for every Member of this House, and this shows his real bipartisan support for this kind of effort.

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, just as an example, this is the envelope we are using with Bianca's picture on it,