

Building on the effectiveness of the financial mechanisms created by these State infrastructure banks, I introduced four bills that will greatly expand the role of these kinds of entities and are related to public-private partnerships.

The first bill is the State Infrastructure Bank Expansion Act, which works by studying ways to expand the use of, and to increase the capital, the money, for these State infrastructure banks.

The second bill, the National Infrastructure Development Corporation Act, creates a Federal entity that functions much like these State creations.

The third bill, the Public Benefit Bonds Innovative Financing Act, creates a new form of infrastructure bond that can be purchased by institutional investors.

The last bill, the National Infrastructure Development Act, ties the two latter vehicles together as a comprehensive approach to leveraging public and private investments in infrastructure.

The first bill, the State Infrastructure Bank Expansion Act, directs the Secretary of the Treasury, in cooperation with heads of other Federal departments, to study the way in which the State Infrastructure Banks can be expanded. The purpose of the study is to determine whether the State banks could be used to finance projects outside of the realm of transportation, so that we can include other areas that could be utilized by the State bank.

I also reintroduced the National Infrastructure Development Act. This bill uses two financing mechanisms to attract private capital. First, the National Infrastructure Development Act creates a new category of a revenue-neutral bond called a public benefit bond. These are tax-exempt bonds which can be used by investors to attract capital for infrastructure development.

The act would also create a Government-sponsored corporation that would have the same kinds of functions as a State Infrastructure Bank, but with expanded authority. The lending corporation would eventually become fully privatized once it has the capital it needs by way of returns on its infrastructure investments.

What I want to do with these bills is to open up a bipartisan discussion about the ways in which we can create the most effective financing tools for rebuilding America's infrastructure. In the era of declining Federal budgets, what we need to do in an effort to try to create jobs, we need to create these jobs and at the same time to try to save the Federal Government money. We need to have private financing tools, private investment, in investing in America's infrastructure.

Today there are many, many American corporations who are investing in infrastructure in Third World countries. What we want to do is to try to capture some of those investment funds and have them invested right here in the United States, where we

can rebuild our schools, our roads, our bridges, our mass transit system, our rail system, our airports, our environmental facilities, and in the process, create hundreds of thousands of new jobs.

I urge my colleagues to study the bills over the coming weeks and months. I hope they will be able to demonstrate their support for these kinds of public-private partnerships. I thank the Members for their consideration.

HOW DO WE KEEP SOCIAL SECURITY SOLVENT?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SNOWBARGER). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. SMITH] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, this is Ryan Hemker from Quincy, MI, coming in from my Michigan Seventh Congressional District as a page, so Ryan is going to help me flip these charts.

Social Security is developing into an issue which more and more people are realizing has very serious consequences. We are talking about the question now of should we continue to dip into the Social Security trust fund to use for current other Government spending. What I want to talk about is how do we keep Social Security solvent, and is there a currently a real problem with Social Security?

As we see by this first chart, Social Security is now the largest spending item in the Federal budget. This past year it was \$347 billion larger than the defense bill, larger than the other 12 discretionary spending bills, of course larger than Medicaid or Medicare or the other entitlements. Interest on the public debt, and that interest includes the money that has been borrowed from the Social Security trust fund, now takes up 15 percent of the Federal budget.

Let us go to the next chart. The next chart shows part of the problem. Our birth rate is going down and people are living longer, and that means that the expense that we are paying into the cost of Social Security is going up.

Since those figures in billions are so huge, I brought it down to a minute out of every day. Right now we are spending \$661,000 a minute, \$661,000 a minute to pay Social Security benefits. But spending per minute in the year 2030 is going to be \$5,717,000. It is going from \$600,000 to over \$6 million in these next few years.

That is because more and more people are living longer, the birth rate is going down, and as the next chart shows, we are seeing that for Americans, when Social Security started in 1935, the average age of death was 63 years old. Now the average age of death is 74 years old, but if you happen to reach 65 and start collecting those benefits, then the average age of death for that person that reaches 65 years old goes up to 84 years old.

As people live longer and the baby boomers retire to expand that senior population, we see the increase on this chart, that seniors are increasing at the rate of 108 percent between now and 2040, where workers that are paying in to pay for those benefits with their Social Security taxes are only increasing at the rate of 23 percent.

Let me stop and pause here a minute to stress the fact that this is a pay-as-you-go program. Current workers pay their taxes to pay the benefits for current retirees. That is the way it is now. That is the way it always has been. There is no savings account. We talk about the trust fund, but the trust fund is only the surplus in every month when those Social Security taxes come in. If you subtract the benefits that are paid out, you have a little surplus, especially since we started increasing the Social Security taxes in the last 15 years. That surplus is what goes into the Social Security trust fund. Now there is \$540 billion in that trust fund, and it is a problem, because we are even using that money for other Government expenditures.

I have proposed legislation that stops the Government from using that surplus money. That is a start. As we see on the number of people, the number of workers that are working, that are paying in their taxes to support each retiree, in 1950 we had 17 workers paying in their taxes to support each retiree. In 1996 we had three workers. By the year 2029, we are only going to have two workers that are going to be asked to pay enough taxes to support each retiree.

Look, anybody under 55 years old had better seriously look at changing the Social Security system. It needs changing. Politicians can no longer bury their heads in the sand and pretend the problem does not exist.

Just let me flip through these charts. Right now we expect to take in less tax revenues than is required for the payout in 2011. However, Dorcas Hardy suggests that it could happen, and we could essentially be in bankruptcy or having less money than required for the payouts as early as 2005. We cannot wait to solve this problem. After that, the red part shows how huge the deficits are going to be, up to \$400 billion a year in today's dollars.

So far we have relied on tax increases to cover the problems of Social Security, so we have gone from 2 percent of the person's payroll, and now we are up to over 12 percent. In fact, if we look at the tax increases since 1970, we have had tax increases 36 times. There has to be a change. I ask everybody to take a look at my bill. It is not the perfect solution. Let us take it up the flagpole, start shooting at it, but let us no longer ignore the real problem with Social Security.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all

Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the subject of the special order given today by the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. PAPPAS].

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

THE PRESIDENT'S OBSESSION WITH EDUCATION

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

Mr. GREEN. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week the Washington Times reported on President Clinton's obsession with education, when he was at the Maryland State Assembly earlier this week. I am happy to note that he is also obsessed with a competitive America in the future, and obsessed with giving children the opportunity for an education.

Although the Times, I think, meant it as an insult, I would be glad to accept this characterization with honor. I would hope that all Members of Congress, including my Republican colleagues, would be obsessed with education.

During the State of the Union, President Clinton set the tone for the second term by indicating that education will be his top priority. The President's education agenda is ambitious, but I believe we are up to the challenge. Two key elements of the President's plan are already part of the Democrat's family first agenda, the \$10,000 tax deduction for tuition and training, and the 2-year \$1,500 HOPE scholarship. I will continue to work with the President to ensure that college will be made more affordable for working families.

The President also stressed the importance of every child reading independently by the third grade and every child knowing algebra by the eighth grade. Ensuring that these goals are met requires more attention and resources focused on early childhood training and childhood education.

The President puts his money where his mouth is by proposing to expand Head Start to cover 1 million children by the year 2002. The President also recognizes the need to give disadvantaged children the help they need in order to succeed in school. Part of that effort is the President's budget would allow for \$7.5 billion in requested aid for title I funding for elementary and secondary schools. This is an increase of over \$347 million over the funding for 1997.

Title I supplements local school efforts to improve reading and math skills of students who are at risk of school failure. This program serves 6.8 million disadvantaged children annually, and helped the students in my 29th district, that I am honored to represent, to improve their basic skills performance.

In fact, Monday of this week, I was at a school in Galena Park School District and talked with the principal and the teachers and the students about the importance of title I funding at that particular elementary school.

Title I is successful, and even my Republican colleagues on the Committee on the Budget agree. In their analysis of the President's budget, the Committee on the Budget reports the following about title I, the Title I Program. This program, title I basic grants, is one of the most important Federal programs for local schools. I hope my colleagues remember this statement during the appropriations process.

I am especially proud that the President has chosen to use the formula that we developed in the 103d Congress to improve the way title I grants are distributed.

□ 1900

Our formula provides greater funding levels to counties with high numbers or percentages of children who are living in poverty. Texas and States like ours that have a large population of disadvantaged children will benefit from this formula.

On Tuesday, Secretary of Education Richard Riley will give his state of American education address. I am proud to participate in Houston as a host of the satellite uplink of the Secretary's speech. The fact that we will be able to watch the address via satellite at Channelview High School is a testament to the benefits of one of President Clinton's 10 points he outlined in the State of the Union Address, the value of bringing technology into our schools.

Channelview Independent School District has built a state-of-the-art high school to educate children for the 21st century. That money was local money that they voted themselves to build a state-of-the-art high school for their children to be educated for the next century.

As Americans, we are leading the way in showing how our global classroom is a better educated classroom. The Internet and satellite communications expand learning beyond the classroom, the classroom setting. In Channelview High School they have that. Every school, every room is capable of having Internet capabilities in Channelview High School.

The value of technology is best appreciated when it builds on the foundation of essential skills. I am looking forward to hearing Secretary Riley's state of the America education address and look forward to working to improve our schools based on standards of excellence to help States and school districts cope with the growing elementary and secondary enrollments and to modernize our schools for the 21st century.

Yes, we should all be obsessed with education.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SNOWBARGER). Under a previous order

of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. SAXTON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. SAXTON addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

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

[Mr. LATOURETTE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

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

[Mr. FOLEY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

EDUCATION

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, this evening I want to spend some time discussing the topic of education in the 105th Congress. I just heard my colleague from Texas and the emphasis he put on education, and obviously the President has stressed it as his No. 1 priority. He did so in the State of the Union Address just last week. The Democrats, of course, as part of their families first agenda that they put forth in the last Congress have continued to prioritize education as an issue that the Congress must address that in particular should be addressed as soon as possible.

The President and congressional Democrats have basically developed a very sweeping plan to make investments in every level of the Nation's education. And in so doing, Democrats have also filled the void that I think has existed since the opening days of this session.

I should say by contrast that so far we have seen very little in terms of specifics from the Republican side of the aisle. We really have no indication of whether they are going to be receptive to the President's or the Democrats' education agenda. I was certainly disappointed today when, rather than spend time on a substantive issue such as education, the Republican leadership brought forward votes on the term limits. We spent the entire day arguing over term limits.

I would say that there are many people in Congress that think term limits are important and certainly it deserves to be debated on the House floor. But I think it borders on irresponsibility to waste time examining term limits when there are issues of true importance awaiting consideration such as