

have chided and fought against for years and years and years because they believe in government. We believe in people.

Today, the American people are the true winners. In spite of the fact that change still does not come fast enough, here we are. And there is a major change in Washington. Government is shrinking and the American people are truly the victors.

BUSINESS AS USUAL

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Madam Speaker, we have got the great bipartisan budget deal, a balanced budget with generous tax cuts. If it seems too good to be true, do you know what? It is.

This is not a new day in Washington, DC. This is business as usual. Cutting up a fat hog, made wildly optimistic assumptions about the economy and revenues, cut social programs a little. Do not take a penny out of the Pentagon and give a host of generous tax cuts slanted toward the most wealthy in America and the largest corporations. A deal written behind closed doors announced last night; no written copies available to Members of Congress, nothing available for review, but it will be voted on tomorrow night, just to be certain that no one knows the details before the details leak out and it begins to stink like the Potomac in August.

□ 1015

TRIBUTE TO HAP BAKER

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

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Madam Speaker, yesterday in Carroll County, MD, we laid to rest a great American, Hap Baker. Hap was the inventor of the guidance system for the Patriot missile. He was proud of that. But he was probably proudest of this little button which he was never without for the past several years: "Politically incorrect, and proud of it."

Hap felt that he was politically incorrect because he had an undying commitment to the great principles of limited government and individual rights set forth in the Constitution. Hap was aghast that a profligate Congress passes law after law and never questions the constitutional authority. He was particularly supportive of second amendment rights.

But first and foremost, he was a conservationist. Hap understood that even in a perfect world, the Lord asked Adam and Eve to dress and keep the garden, and Hap wanted to help. We miss you Hap, and we will not forget you and what you stood for: "Politically incorrect, and proud of it." God bless.

BALANCED BUDGET AND TAX AGREEMENT

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

Mr. ROEMER. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of the bipartisan balanced budget and tax agreement. This proposal achieves two long-sought-after objectives. One, it will balance the budget in a fair and equitable manner. And, second, it creates new programs for children's health, education, and modest tax relief for hard-working Americans.

Now, with this recently-agreed-to budget proposal, we have \$24 billion for children, we have tax relief for small farmers, small businesses and, yes, low-income people at \$25,000 a year; we have educational help for people in college.

Madam Speaker, this permanently rejects the tax-and-spend label on Democrats. And, yes, it will continue to say the Democrats come up with new ideas that work effectively for hard-working people in America.

AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE WINNERS IN BALANCED BUDGET AGREEMENT

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

Mr. BOEHNER. Madam Speaker, and my colleagues, it is really going to happen, the first balanced budget in a generation, the first tax cut from Washington in 16 years, and a program to strengthen and preserve Medicare.

Members from both sides of the political aisle worked together; the White House worked with us honestly to bring about these achievements. So there are a lot of people going to be claiming credit today and a lot of people claiming who the winners really are. The real winners in this agreement are the American people, the American people who sent us here to do their bidding and to do their work.

Over the last 2½ years, it has not just been this balanced budget and this tax cut and this preservation of Medicare that we have accomplished, it has been welfare reform, a generation of politicians trying to come to grips with this issue, illegal immigration reform, health care reform, elimination of over 300 Federal Government programs, saving over \$50 billion.

This Congress continues to do what the American people are demanding, a smaller, less costly, less intrusive government here in Washington, moving power back home so Americans can make more decisions about their own lives.

IN SUPPORT OF BALANCED BUDGET AGREEMENT

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

Ms. STABENOW. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure today to rise in support of the balanced budget agreement that we will be voting on later this week.

Before I entered the House in January, we had a Congress that was shutting the Government down, not once but twice. We now have new faces. We now have the President's leadership in bringing together people on both sides to create a bipartisan agreement. This is an agreement that when it first came before the House I could not support because it very much gave relief to those at the top, hoping that those at the middle somehow would receive it through trickle-down economics.

But what we have now is very different. The efforts, the hard work of the last few weeks have made a tremendous difference. We now see middle-class families, small businesses, family-owned farms receiving the kind of relief that we have been fighting for. Education is now a top priority; children's health care for families that work but do not have insurance.

This is a dramatically different proposal than the one that passed a few weeks ago. The hard work paid off. The folks that have been communicating their concerns for middle-class America have made a difference.

OVERSEAS PRIVATE INVESTMENT CORPORATION

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

Mr. ROYCE. Madam Speaker, the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, known as OPIC, provides loans and insurance to corporations operating overseas and at below-market cost. It is a subsidy. OPIC competes with private banks and insurers, only OPIC operates outside of the market, with the full faith and credit of the American taxpayer behind it. The American taxpayers are at risk.

The Royce-Andrews-Kasich amendment, which will come up on Thursday, is a modest proposal. It calls for spending no more than \$20.8 million on this program. We are asking that OPIC live within the administrative expenses budgeted for it in 1994, when its current authorization level was established.

In this time of corporate downsizing and shrinking budgets, is it really so much to keep OPIC's budget from growing by \$12 million, or 50 percent? I do not think so. I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" for this amendment on Thursday.

IN SUPPORT OF ROYCE-ANDREWS-KASICH AMENDMENT

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

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Royce-Andrews-Kasich amendment, which is a bipartisan amendment that

reduces the administrative appropriation for the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, OPIC, from \$32 million to \$20.8 million. OPIC uses taxpayer money to provide direct loans and risk insurance to Fortune 500 companies, who in turn are firing American workers.

One year ago, Congress and the President put an end to the six-decade floor beneath the aid to families with dependent children, or AFDC, a minimus program justified on the basis of simple humanity and basic morality, yet the corporations want to continue their AFDC program, Aid For Dependent Corporations. With their record profits and management salary and benefits, they have no such humanitarian or moral claim. The cost to American taxpayers and workers cannot be justified.

With the destabilizing effects of corporate downsizing on American workers and their families, we should not be providing incentives for America's corporate giants to invest abroad, taking advantage of low wage cost, lower standards, and often exploitative working conditions of Third World countries rather than reinvesting and creating jobs at home. We need to raise the developing country standards, not lower our own in an ever-increasing global economy.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. JENKINS. Mr. Speaker, on June 24, on rollcall 311, I am recorded as not voting. I recall vividly being in the Chamber. It was on the agricultural appropriations bill. I feel that I voted but I was inadvertently not recorded on that vote. Had I been recorded on that vote, I would have voted "aye."

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2266, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1998

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 198 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 198

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. 2266) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. Points of order against consideration of the bill for failure to comply with clause 2(1)(6) of rule XI, clause 7 of rule XXI, or section 306 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 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. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under

the five-minute rule. Points of order against provisions in the bill for failure to comply with clause 2 or 6 of rule XXI are waived. During consideration of the bill for 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. 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 amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COBLE). The gentleman from Florida [Mr. GOSS] is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, for purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Texas [Mr. FROST], pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purposes of debate on this issue only.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 198 is an open rule, as is customary for appropriations measures. The rule provides for 1 hour of general debate equally divided between the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations.

The rule waives points of order against consideration of the bill for failing to comply with 2(L)(6) of rule XI, the 3-day requirement for availability of the report. The rule also waives points of order against consideration of the bill for failure to comply with clause 7 of rule XXI, the 3-day requirement for availability of printed hearings on appropriations bills. Given the schedule we had have before us and the bipartisan manner with which this bill has been brought forward to the House, I think these waivers are entirely reasonable and fair.

In addition, this rule waives points of order under section 306 of the Budget Act of 1974, which prohibits consideration of bills containing matters within the jurisdiction of the Committee on the Budget. In the Committee on Rules we heard no objection from the Committee on the Budget on this point, so I do not believe this caused anybody any trouble either.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, the rule waives points of order against provisions in the bill which do not comply with clause 2 of rule XXI, prohibiting unauthorized appropriations and legislation on general appropriations bills, as well as clause 6 of rule XXI, prohib-

iting transfers of unobligated balances. Again, I wish to advise my colleagues that these waivers have been reviewed by the authorizing committee and we have heard no objection to them.

Mr. Speaker, as we have done frequently in the recent past to bring greater awareness to the membership of potential amendments, the rule grants priority in recognition of those Members who have caused their amendments to be preprinted in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

The rule also provides that the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole may postpone votes on any amendment and that the chairman may reduce voting time on postponed questions to 5 minutes, provided that the voting time on the first in a series of questions is not less than 15 minutes, usual procedure. This is a useful time management tool, one that may be especially welcome during these last hectic days as we seek to conclude the historic budget agreement before the August work period.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, the rule provides for one motion to recommit, with our without instructions.

That sounds like a fairly complicated rule, but actually it is a fairly straightforward open rule for appropriations that has gone through all the proper process. I believe it has been done in a bipartisan spirit.

I wish to commend the gentleman from Florida [Mr. YOUNG], the subcommittee chairman, and the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. MURTHA], the ranking member, for the extraordinary work they have done in crafting this bill. We sometimes resort to large adjectives and hyperbole in describing work here. In this case, I definitely mean it. This is a very good work product, and an awful lot of hard work has been put into it.

These are lean budget times, as we as know. It is even more difficult to make tough choices about national security under such circumstances. When we find ourselves in occasions such as we have today, we find sometimes tensions and breakdown in communications. Things go wrong. But to the credit of both men, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. YOUNG] and the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. MURTHA], that has not happened, and instead we have a bipartisan bill, as we should with something so important as our national security.

On a personal note, as chairman of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, which authorizes programs within this appropriations subcommittee's jurisdiction, I am most grateful for the level of cooperation, attention, and support we have from the appropriators.

□ 1030

The system of congressional oversight does work. It has worked very well in this area, and I am very proud of our effort.

Mr. Speaker, none of us wants to consider the possibility of threats to our