

down, even as we pump more money into the system. They go in and they say the class size is too large. And then we find out a third of the members of the class are illegal alien children.

In California the health care system is breaking down, and those children in our school system are confronted with diseases that we thought we had knocked out years ago but perhaps are being brought in by illegal people from South America someplace.

□ 1815

These are things we have got to care about, not because we do not like the people who are illegally coming into our country but because we care about our own citizens. The question the American people should be asking of their elected representatives, the question, the main question should be who do you care about, who are you representing. Are you representing some cockamamie liberal idea that they are going to share the wealth with everybody?

I was in a negotiation with someone yesterday who was literally talking about an amnesty program, another amnesty program for the 5 million illegal aliens who are in our system. And also during the discussion we talked about the people who are here illegally perhaps bringing their grandparents over, being able to bring their grandparents over. I just could not understand how anyone could suggest that we bring people over from overseas who are senior citizens, who have never paid a cent into our system, who would then partake in the social benefit packages that our own seniors have paid for all of their lives. They have worked all of their lives to build a little security for themselves, and then we are going to betray them by permitting people to come in great masses from overseas and partake out of the bowl until the bowl is dry, especially when for so long our own citizens have been contributing to that thing, thinking they would be helped by that when they became seniors.

Who are we representing? Who are we watching out for? If our people are not watching out for the well-being of the people of the United States, they should not be in the House of Representatives. We see this time and time again where there is a concept of a global concept here, that it is going to guide our decisions, what is best for the world or best for those seniors overseas.

I have a heart. I care for these good people who would like to emigrate here illegally. I have a heart for people who are trying to improve their economy overseas. But we cannot have policies that are aimed at helping others at the expense of our own people. It should be a fundamental principle. If we can give and help provide and support people who are building free societies and democracies overseas, their societies will progress, they will have prosperity, they can take care of themselves rather

than having their people having to emigrate and flood into the United States.

We have a great challenge ahead of us, to be the leader of a free world and to stand for decency. The first and most important responsibility we have in meeting that challenge is to watch out for the interests of the people of the United States of America.

#### ILLEGAL TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN ORGANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WALSH). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Washington, Mrs. LINDA SMITH, is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. LINDA SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, last Friday Representative PELOSI, Representative WOLF, and myself, LINDA SMITH, asked the Attorney General, Janet Reno, to launch a formal inquiry and prosecute all violators of U.S. laws who have illegally trafficked in human organs.

A little over a week ago, there was a documentary shown by ABC, and it showed footage of men and women of Asian descent in China lined up in rows, with one person holding them with their hands behind their back and another person with a rifle to their head. You watched then a military leader, I do not know what the rank, walk behind them and reposition the gun. It was so that the execution made sure that the organs were left in the best order for the person that was in the red army, the People's Liberation Army hospital run by the military just a short ways away, ready for the kidneys from these executed prisoners. It went on to show that this was a common practice, as testified by doctors in the United States and China. People that have been involved, it is reported that there are nearly 4,000 of them at least last year just for the harvesting, as they call it, of their kidneys.

If these allegations are true, we are talking about men and women being treated like animals, no more than like cattle being lined up to be used for the benefit of someone else. I believe America is too good for this, but they are way too good for participating in it, because something more was revealed. I have known this for some time. Some of the tapes that were delivered to the administration a year ago asking them to defend, to do something, to speak out showed that Americans were involved. The tape goes on, though, and shows some things new, and it shows that the Chinese government or folks from China have been coming in on student visas and that they are actually the agents that market for \$5,000 down a prisoner's vital organ. In this case it was kidneys. They say, though, that they can match anybody, because they have thousands, maybe millions of people, of whatever match and they can take blood type and tissue type and make sure that the rejection is low, because they have so

many specimens to draw from in their prisons.

The reports we get from American Amnesty and other groups is that the increase in the arrests is growing at a great rate in China for folks that just get together to pray in a church, or are of the wrong religion, not okayed by the government, coming together, like possibly Moslem in some cases, Catholic, and that this is what they fill their prisons with. So this is not people even who are hardened criminals.

We have asked the Attorney General to go through all the American laws. We have found so far it is against the law to traffic in organs and to get consideration from them. So the people involved and the corporations that set up the dialysis and stayed involved and corporate heads who have testified to this, we have asked them to be deposed. We have asked the people that are selling, that we have identified and given the names and the visa numbers to the FBI, to be retained and not allowed to leave the country. But more than that, we have asked the President next week when he hosts a party for the President of China to ask him to put a stop to this atrocity carried off by his military in modern hospitals set up by American equipment, dialysis corporations. We need our President to speak out, because that has what has been good about America for many years. Often not foreign policy that is passed by Congress, but a leadership that speaks out and says we have a balanced approach to dealing with other countries. I plead with the President tonight to please speak out for people around the world, and I plead for this Congress to pass a resolution in the next few days, tomorrow, next week that calls for a united voice against this practice.

#### SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, today in Budget Committee, we heard testimony about what we might do if there were more revenues coming into the Federal government than required under the existing caps for expenditures; in other words, if we reached a surplus sometime next year. That looks like it might be a possibility. We heard testimony that some of that money should go for infrastructure and more money for roads. We heard testimony that some of that money should go for tax cuts. We heard testimony that maybe it should simply go towards reducing the debt of this country that is now at \$5.3 trillion.

I would like to put in a suggestion, Mr. Speaker, that we use some of this money to start paying back the Social Security trust fund and start dealing with the huge unfunded liability that we are now faced with with this program of Social Security.

The red chart that I have over here, the blue part shows the short-term blip where we will have more money coming in than is required to pay out existing benefits. The red portion of this chart that goes as much as taking \$400 billion a year out of the general fund because there will not be enough in the Social Security taxes coming in shows the length of time of the seriousness of this unfunded liability. I think it deserves just a brief review of the program that started in 1935.

In 1935, we started the Social Security program. It was started as a "pay as you go" program with existing workers paying in their taxes to pay for the benefits of existing retirees. At that time when we started, there were 47 workers paying in their taxes, at that time it was 2 percent on \$3500, paying in their taxes to support each retiree. 47 of them. By 1950 that got down to about 16. Today there are only 3 workers working paying their Social Security taxes, 12.4 percent with the employee and the employer's share, supporting each retiree, a tremendous burden on those individuals that are working and paying in this huge tax.

Let me just show Members, for example, something that should be very startling to everybody under 50 years old. This chart shows how long you are going to have to live after retirement in order to get back just the money that you and your employer put into the Social Security taxes. Not a good investment. If you happened to retire here in 1960, you could get back everything you and the employer had put in in 2 years. In 1995 it took 16 years if you retired in 1995. But if you are going to retire in 2005, 23 years, or 2015, you are going to have to live 26 years after retirement just to get back what you and your employer put into Social Security.

It is time we took our heads out of the sand and started dealing with this huge problem. This shows the projected growth of the senior population in relation to the workers. The senior population goes up 73 percent between now and 2025. The working population only goes up 14 percent. Here is the chart that shows in 1950 we had 17 workers working to pay their taxes for each retiree, 3 today, 2 by 2029. I think this should be the startling chart that should make us be a wakeup call for all Members of Congress, because if we put this off, that means that the solutions are going to be more drastic later on, either in increasing taxes or reducing benefits.

What we have done in the past is simply increased taxes every time there was a shortage of funds. Since 1971, we have increased the Social Security tax 36 times. We cannot do that.

I have got a proposal that I will be introducing next week that solves the Social Security problem without any tax increase, without taking away any benefits for anybody 57 years old or older, and it starts dealing with this huge problem by allowing some private

investment. What we do is slow down the increase in benefits for higher income recipients and the amount of money coming into the trust fund, we use some of that for private investment. So the worker has the ownership of some of that investment that they can invest in the stock market, the equity stocks, equity bonds, equity mutual funds to allow them to gain some of the magic of compounding interest, and they will actually retire with much more benefits than if they stayed on the existing Social Security system.

Another call to arms I think is the fact that the workers today, 78 percent of those workers today pay more in Social Security tax than they do in the income tax. It is unfair, it is going to be generational warfare if we do not do something about it. I say, let us start immediately as we look towards this short-term blip of balancing the budget and start dealing with this huge problem of Social Security to make sure that the existing retirees in future generations have the kind of benefits that we promised them.

□ 1830

#### EDUCATION IN AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WALSH). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, the gentleman from Texas [Mr. ARMEY] is recognized for 60 minutes as the Majority Leader.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Speaker for that recognition. I want to also thank the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. SMITH] for his five minutes. That is a very important subject, and I think the gentleman from Michigan is demonstrating that, irrespective of the relatively painful political history that this subject has had, that the time may be in fact at hand in America when indeed it will be required of us in responsible public policy discourse to address these very pressing problems that the gentleman has addressed in his five-minute talk.

I want to again commend the gentleman from Michigan, for not only his insight into America's policy problems, but, frankly, his courage to take on a subject that, for all too many years, has been one that has not been appropriately and necessarily addressed in this country.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to take a moment and give my regards and appreciation to the very many dedicated Members of the House staff. It is so often the case that long after the day's work is done and most Members have gone about their business, that the dedicated staff of this body remain for these matters we call "special orders."

Certainly, we recognize the importance of special orders, but, while we do that, we ought to take a little time and recognize the staff's willingness to bear up under that additional workload with good humor and good grace.

As you know, it is not a matter of practice for me to do special orders. That tendency that I have to refrain from doing so is oftentimes in deference to the staff because they, too, have families. They, too, are anxious to get home at night. I would only do that if I felt compelled to do so with respect to a subject that is pressing in the hearts and minds of the American people.

I would further like to predicate my comments, Mr. Speaker, by bringing good news to the body. Our congressional family is made today one person stronger, one person richer. DAVID and Ruthie MCINTOSH today gave birth to their very, very first baby, Elizabeth. I am sure they will come to realize over the years, as I did, it is indeed your good fortune when your first baby is a beautiful baby girl, as mine was. So I am sure all the body would want to join me in expressing our heartfelt congratulations to DAVID and Ruthie, and our anticipation of seeing Elizabeth as a member of our congressional family.

The subject that I would like to address during this period of time, Mr. Speaker, is the subject of education in America. We have had some initiatives brought to the floor. We have seen some debate on the matter. We will talk about this subject this evening, and we will try to have a serious discussion of this subject.

I would like to recognize those of my colleagues that are here before I proceed very much further myself, but I do feel, Mr. Speaker, constrained to say one thing: As we have had these debates, I have been alarmed by the nature of the debate, particularly from the minority. It should be understood and it should be accepted in this body that when it comes to the matter of the education of our children, we are all concerned and we are all dedicated, and that the kinds of hysterical criticisms that have been levied against the initiatives brought to this floor by Members of this body are no compliment to the body, and certainly do very little to help the American people understand how seriously this body takes that most important task of educating our Nation's children.

It would be my fond hope that in the future all Members of this body would be able to approach the debates with the kind of gentlemanly demeanor and assertiveness, a point of view that we have seen as, for example, in the persons of the gentleman from New York [Mr. FLAKE] and the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. LIPINSKI], both from the other side of the aisle, both people whose dedication to the children of this country is not questioned and should not be questioned.

I will come back with some more discussion points of my own, but, as I have said, we have so many Members that want to participate in this discussion this evening, not the least of whom, and if the gentlemen that are here will please abide me, if the gentleman from Florida will please accept,