

SLASH AND BURN SPENDING CUTS

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

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the actions of the House leadership. The Republicans cannot make the tough choice on government spending, so they have resorted to across-the-board spending cuts. It is a slash-and-burn budget cutting, and this will fall squarely on the backs of seniors and children, the most vulnerable members of society. That means cutting food and education programs to poor children and destroying Meals on Wheels for home-bound seniors. The programs that have been so successful in empowering our citizens to succeed like Head Start and Gear Up and adult literacy programs are slashed or gone entirely.

Mr. Speaker, the Republicans have missed their budget deadline. They have busted the budget caps, all the while claiming to be fiscally responsible, and they are spending the Social Security surplus, more than \$19 billion of it.

So now we must judge them by their actions, or in this case, their gimmicks, calling the census an emergency, or adding a thirteenth month to the calendar year. This is not the kind of leadership the American people need and deserve from their elected representatives.

WHAT A DIFFERENCE A CONSERVATIVE CONGRESS MAKES

(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 listened with great interest to my colleague from California. It seems that mediscare and school lunches are back. My colleagues remember that from 1996, do they not? The spurious threat and the out and out untruths propagated by the left in their sole attempt, in their desperate attempt, to regain political power.

Certainly, Mr. Speaker, we can all agree that there is enough waste, fraud and abuse in these Washington-run programs that government can be run more efficiently and dare I say more compassionately, not by kowtowing to the interests of the labor bosses within government, but instead looking for true limited and effective government as Thomas Jefferson sought.

While facts are stubborn things, we would simply point out to my friends on the left that throughout their time and the last time they were in control of this House they spent all of the Social Security surplus, they gave us the largest tax increase in American history, and they sunk us deeper into debt.

My, what a difference a common sense, conservative Congress makes.

EVERYBODY HAS NUKES

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, China and Russia have nukes; India and Pakistan have nukes; Russia, Iran, and North Korea have nukes. Everybody has nukes. It is so bad, reports now say that McDonald's is developing the McNuke.

I ask, Mr. Speaker, what good is a nuclear test ban if every crackpot in the world keeps building nuclear weapons?

Beam me up here.

I say be careful, Congress, because America will abide by any nuclear test ban, but those crackpots throughout the world will not, and I tell my colleagues this: we can build them, but do not shoot them. Save that for the tooth fairy.

I yield back all those mad scientists with carpel funnel.

WAIVE DAVIS-BACON FOR CLEAN-UP EFFORTS FROM HURRICANE FLOYD

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

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, in 1992, after the Hurricane Andrew hit south Florida, President Bush suspended the Davis-Bacon law with regard to the clean-up and rehabilitation work receiving funds. President Clinton revoked that suspension when he got into office, so it never really was tested to see whether it would help get clean-up work done quicker and cheaper. I have been pushing President Clinton to waive the Davis-Bacon Act for clean-up efforts in Hurricane Floyd in my State of North Carolina and elsewhere and even sent him a letter signed by many Members of the House.

Waiving Davis-Bacon would not only save scarce Federal resources, but it would also save time in getting contractors out and create job opportunities for those in need of work. Unfortunately, I do not think I am going to get this administration to agree with me, even though it could save our taxpayers millions of dollars.

REFORM OF THE BROAD BAND POLICY

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

Mr. BALDACCI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to encourage my colleagues to continue the debate on broad band issues. It is vital, especially in rural areas in the country such as States like Maine that there exists a competitive environment for opening up high-speed information services. I have co-sponsored legislation on this important

issue and hope that we move to initiate to open up the market in data markets throughout the country and also in Maine. If we encourage high-speed Internet connections to multiply, rural areas that are currently left out of this market will benefit. It will increase consumer choices and will assure the Internet will quickly advance technology, allowing more and better interactive media, high-speed data and video systems.

It is my hope with full Internet access we will enable rural States like Maine to compete on a more equal footing in the economic sphere and enhance the quality of life for all of our citizens. Advancing such economic opportunities is one of the most important things that we can do as Members of Congress. I encourage my colleagues to work towards reform of the broad band policy.

SUPPORT MARTA BEATRIZ ROQUE AND THE CUBAN PEOPLE, NOT THE CASTRO DICTATORSHIP

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to once again underscore the subjugation of the Cuban people and the widespread persecution of human rights dissidents and opposition leaders. This weekend the Castro regime sought to further torture Marta Beatriz Roque, one of Cuba's four leading dissidents, by moving her to a secret jail, blocking all but one relative from visiting her, and controlling even that access by having state security agents transport and monitor this relative.

Driven by the strength of her convictions and the commitment to give life and limb if necessary, if it furthers the cause of freedom and liberty for Cuba, Marta Beatriz Roque has gone on hunger strikes in defiance of the regime's threats to highlight the flagrant miscarriage of justice and the frequent violations of the rights of the Cuban people. Her uncompromising will stands as a thorn at the side of a regime seeking to hide Marta Beatriz and its brutality from the world.

My colleagues, I ask you to support Marta Beatriz Roque and the Cuban people and not the Castro dictatorship.

REPUBLICANS BALANCING THE BUDGET ON THE BACKS OF THE WORKING POOR

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I met with low-income working families in my district on Monday, and here is what they have to say about the GOP gimmick to delay their tax refund, the earned income tax credit:

My colleagues do not know Christina Quinn, but she says, and I quote, "My

husband and I budget for all of our bills, and we use the lump sum for things like buying a car because we have no credit. If we got it monthly, it would just be absorbed by the regular bills."

My colleagues do not know Gina Philips, but she has been using her yearly Federal tax refund to pay off her debts and clear up her credit so she can finally buy a home for herself and her 16-year-old daughter, and my colleagues do not know Jeanette Tilman, who says that Republican leaders in Congress who want to delay payment of the earned income tax credit for working families, and I quote, "need to walk in our moccasins."

Yes indeed, the Republican leadership of this House should not try to balance the budget on the backs of the working poor. They ought to heed the words of their presidential standard bearer.

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, in debates in this body in recent weeks some Members have criticized measures aimed at protecting public religious expressions or allowing participation of faith-based institutions and programs in the public sphere. This argument is not founded in our history or heritage. It does not have its roots in our Constitution, but rather in the criticisms of revisionists who wish the Constitution said something other than what it actually does.

The record, however, is replete with the words and writings of our framers and founders, those who wrote the Constitution, founded our government overwhelmingly about the role of government and religion. Consider the words of John Jay, one of the three authors of the Federalist Papers, the first Chief Justice, U.S. Supreme Court. Jay declared quote:

"It is the duty of all wise, free and virtuous governments to countenance and encourage virtue and religion," end quote.

The third chief justice, Oliver Ellsworth, echoed this by saying quote:

"Institutions for the promotion of good morals are objects of legislative provision and support among these religious institutions."

Mr. Speaker, let us get back to our roots.

BAN ON NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION MAKES GOOD SENSE

(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, the American people were hoping that good sense and good judgment would prevail, that all of us recognize that in this time of peace with

our allies begging for consensus and collaboration that we would have accepted and responded to the requests for a ban on nuclear proliferation; but unfortunately in the quagmire of partisan politics and the insult and the back drop of allegations and accusations about old stories of impeachment, we fell before the cause and failed to take up what most Americans realize is good sense, the ban on nuclear proliferation. We only have to look to Japan and see the recent accident tragically where there was exposure to radiation and nuclear activity.

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We see how damaging it can be, when our allies write letters and plead for our consensus and collaboration and we laugh in their face. What an insult, not to our allies, but to us. Shame on us, shame on America. When are we going to understand that partisan politics has to be put aside for the good of the world.

NAVY IN VIOLATION OF U.S. CODE REGARDING WEAPONS STATION EARLE

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

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I recently learned of an attempt by the U.S. Navy to radically change the role of Weapons Station Earle in my home State of New Jersey. I was outraged that the Navy is making this decision without consulting the State of New Jersey, the New Jersey Congressional delegation, or the House Committee on National Security.

Today, I intend to introduce a resolution which would call on the Navy to cease its illegal realignment of Navy Weapons Station Earle. It is clear by a review of their own material that the Navy is in direct violation of section 2687 of Title 10 of the United States Code.

It is essential that the Navy abide by the law and that the appropriate congressional committees have the opportunity to review and evaluate the operational, budgetary, strategic, and local economic impact of such a realignment.

I am prepared to bring suit against the United States Navy if they continue to pursue the realignment of forces at Navy Weapons Station Earle, in direct violation of BRAC.

FAILURE TO RATIFY COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN TREATY IS RECKLESS AND DENIES U.S. LEADERSHIP IN FIGHT AGAINST NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION

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

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, the Republicans in the Senate are strutting around as if they have done something. TRENT LOTT and JESSE HELMS, our Nation's chief diplomats, have put this planet on notice that when it comes to nuclear testing, America would become the world's cheerleader.

Now, we know that this Republican Congress just loves to play the game of brinkmanship. Using the guise of fighting for Republican budget priorities, Newt Gingrich showed that he did not care about taking the whole country into the abyss with him as Republicans threw the whole government into shutdown chaos.

To fail to ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty is not just reckless, it denies U.S. leadership in the fight against nuclear proliferation. We have no moral or legal ground to stand on should any rogue state like North Korea or Afghanistan decide to go nuclear.

Unfortunately, the Senate Republicans do not seem satisfied with America in the abyss. It seems now they want to take the whole world there with them.

PATting OURSELVES ON THE BACK

(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 came here; I said it was time to balance the budget. That was a dream. We said, though, in 1995 when the Republicans took over, we would do it in the year 2002, by then.

I think we need to say it and resay it; we need to take credit for it; we need to pat ourselves on the back. We have done what is right. And we are going to balance the budget this year, not using Social Security; and we are going to have a \$1 billion surplus. That is well ahead of our goal of 2002. Not since 1960 has that happened.

So I say, take credit for the good work that we are doing here in Congress. The leadership of this House under Speaker HASTERT has led us to the point where we can proudly hold our heads up and say we are using the resources that the American people give us in a wise and proper way.

TIME TO PUT AMERICA'S CHILDREN FIRST

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

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, classes have been in session in my home State of Oregon for about a month and a half now, and we are still engaged in budget fights here that will determine the quality of education in States across America and for children across America.

About 70 percent of schoolchildren in the Portland metropolitan area in grades K through 3 are in class sizes