

earlier speakers this morning and I wonder what their question is and why they do not have an answer.

Mr. Speaker, the President's budget has been on the table, and it is a balanced budget. It does protect Social Security and Medicare. It is interesting that they are on a fishing expedition on the other side of the aisle, looking for the President's budget and wondering what is the direction that this Congress should take.

Well, the one direction we should not take is the gimmickry that we see on the other side. Republicans will have the kinds of gimmicks that will result in a \$13-billion, if you will, deficit resulting on-budget deficit to about \$23 billion or \$24 billion.

I think there is plain common sense. Adopt the President's budget. Be serious about saving Social Security and Medicare. Stop misrepresenting to the American people. And begin to fund the great needs that we have in this country.

But, most of all, tell our seniors and those who are looking for Social Security that we are committed in a bipartisan way to save Social Security and to save Medicare.

STOP THE RAID ON SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, as everybody knows, last week the Congressional Budget Office reported that the Federal Government, for the first time in nearly 40 years, avoided spending any of the Social Security Trust Fund forward other Government programs.

I hear this business about \$13 billion from the other side. They know that that was based on an inquiry with false presumptions, none of which ever came about.

What I would like to say is, for the first time, the Social Security surplus bottom line is in the black. This in itself is the single-most important budgetary accomplishment that Congress, and I mean all of Congress, has achieved in years.

But we should not lose sight how we got here. In 1995, when the Republican Congress took charge, we organized spending priorities. We got a lot of bipartisan support. All of this was done in an effort to protect the American taxpayers' money and strengthen vital programs like Social Security.

Yet earlier this year, the President proposed dipping into the surplus by \$57 billion. Now he is threatening to veto certain bills because they do not spend enough. That is hardly an effort to protect Social Security. Stop the raid on Social Security.

□ 1030

VOICES AGAINST VIOLENCE

(Mrs. JONES of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, over the past 2 days, students and their chaperons from all over the country have come here to be voices against violence. This poster board has postcards from chaperons across the country. I read one:

Please talk about the importance of developing a new model of education in this country. We now need a longer school day built around a holistic health model with education as a component. Children need to know themselves, feel good about themselves and have a hope about the future. We must have a system that cultivates and nurtures youth to become productive, well-adjusted citizens.

These 2 days have been wonderful days wherein our folk can come to the Hill and they are saying to us, let us get on with funding education appropriately. They are saying, let us deal with violence, let us deal with gun control, and let us see that the children of our Nation are nurtured, well-developed, healthy and have an opportunity to become useful citizens.

PROTECT SOCIAL SECURITY: STOP THE FOREIGN AID RAID

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, we were told all along that the President would veto the foreign operations bill because he wanted to spend more money on foreign aid. And sure enough, he vetoed the bill.

Then we were told that he really did not want to spend more money on foreign aid like we had been told all along, what he really wanted was more money in the bill so he could reduce foreign aid and spend the money elsewhere. Uh-huh.

Look. Republicans in Congress have made a commitment to protect Social Security. We have stopped the 30-year raid on the Social Security trust fund. And we are not about to begin to renew that raid in order to satisfy the President's insatiable appetite for foreign aid spending.

Mr. Speaker, thanks to the Republican Congress, those who receive Social Security benefits today and those who hope to benefit from the Social Security fund tomorrow finally have reason to believe that the trust fund is protected. Let us not return to the bad old days. Let us stop the foreign aid raid.

ON THE GOP BUDGET

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

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, it is time for a history quiz. Who created Social Security in April 1935?

The answer, a Democratic President and a Democratic-led Congress despite fierce opposition from the Republican Party. In fact, only one Republican voted in favor of maintaining Social Security. Now we are expected to believe that the Republicans are going to save Social Security, something they never wanted in the first place?

Let us just listen to Republican Majority Leader DICK ARMEY. During his first campaign for the House in 1984, ARMEY said that Social Security was a "bad retirement" and a "rotten trick" on the American people. He continued, and I quote, "I think we're going to have to bite the bullet on Social Security and phase it out over a period of time." That was from the Fort Worth Star-Telegram in 1984.

In January 1985, ARMEY said, and I quote, "One thing that is very clear to us from the history of the Social Security system in this country is that the Federal Government is incapable of administering a compulsory retirement program in a manner that gives the public a secure and predictable future."

The GOP's own CBO estimates say that the Republican budget already dips into Social Security by more than \$18 billion.

REGARDING FOREIGN OPERATIONS APPROPRIATIONS BILL

(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 Washington it is important not just to listen to the words people say. It is important to watch what they do.

This week, President Clinton vetoed the foreign ops appropriations bill because he said it did not spend enough money. The President wants Congress to give him more money even though any extra spending would have had to come from the Social Security surplus.

It is revealing that the President would veto a foreign aid bill that spends \$12 billion, billions for ensuring peace in the Middle East, millions for fighting disease throughout the world, millions more for fighting the war on drugs, among other things. How much more money does the President need, Mr. Speaker?

Instead of working with Congress to fight the spread of narcotics and to preserve democracy and freedom in the world, the President applied the ink of the veto pen. The President said "no" to a reasonable bill and he says he needs more money, higher spending. What else is new?

OPPOSE THE REPUBLICAN STRAIGHT F'S BILL

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

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, this morning I rise as the former superintendent of my State's schools to express my concerns about H.R. 2300, a

bill which the House will consider later this week.

The Republican leadership has labeled this bill the "Straight A's" bill. But as someone who knows a little something about education in this country, I can tell my colleagues that this bill should be called the "Straight F's" bill. The Straight F's bill fails our children, it fails our schools and it fails our taxpayers.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support flexibility in Federal education funds. As a longtime school reformer, I strongly support innovation that will improve education for all of our children. However, this bill fails to meet these standards in several ways.

The Straight F's bill fails our schools by undermining the national commitment to education, the Straight F's bill fails our children by eliminating the targeting of funds to high poverty areas, and the Straight F's bill fails our taxpayers by doing away with accountability standards and allowing tax money to be spent on ways that will not best suit our students.

Mr. Speaker, I call on this Congress to reject H.R. 2300.

We should reverse course and support school construction, teacher training, technology upgrades, after school care, year-round schools, School Resource Officers, character education and class size reduction initiatives that will improve education for our children.

USE THE BIG RED PEN

(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, 9 months ago the President of the United States came to this Chamber and delivered his State of the Union message where he proposed a budget that would only save about 60 percent of the Social Security surplus and take the other 40 percent and put it into more spending. And here is where that spending rests in this budget proposed by the President of the United States.

Now, there is good news, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday, the leadership of the House and Senate went to the White House and at long last the President now agrees with the congressional majority. He says he wants to save 100 percent of the Social Security surplus. Now, Mr. Speaker, the real work begins.

Mr. Speaker, I would invite the American people to do as one of our leaders did. Senator LOTT took a big red pen to the White House as a gift when they sat down to talk over the budget and invited the President to go through his massive spending programs and start using the red pen.

Let us cut out wasteful Washington spending, Mr. Speaker. Folks should dial the White House at 202/456-1414 and say, Mr. Speaker, "Use the big red pen." Cut Washington waste.

SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, I think I heard last January this President saying that he did not want to do anything with Social Security, that he wanted to put it aside to make sure that it was solvent, that he was not going to use any parts of any Social Security until we have fixed it.

Now, I do remember that. It seems like my Republican colleagues are continuing to say that the President is spending Social Security. It is outrageous for the Republicans to pose as defenders of Social Security, Mr. Speaker, when we know that they have raided the Social Security funds. Remember who these people are. They are the enemies of Social Security. They want to eliminate it through privatization.

Listen to this gimmick. Listen to the rhetoric. Please, American people, remember January of this year, it was the President who said that he did not want to use Social Security funds, that he wanted to ensure Social Security solvency and Medicare reform. Do not listen to the rhetoric of the folks on the other side.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BE-REUTER). Members are reminded again that they are to address their remarks to the Chair, to the Speaker.

STATE FLEXIBILITY FOR THE MINIMUM WAGE

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

Mr. DEMINT. Mr. Speaker, Americans are most secure when they are most free. Because of welfare reform, the poorest Americans in every State have begun to realize the benefits of freedom because we have asked the States to find jobs for people on welfare. The States have responded. In fact, the number of people on welfare in my home State of South Carolina has fallen by 63 percent in just 3 years. Over 70,000 South Carolinians now have productive jobs and have been set free from government dependency.

I believe it is time to give our States more flexibility so they can build upon these successes. It is time to trust our States with the minimum wage.

Mr. Speaker, another increase in the national minimum wage will make it harder to get people off of welfare. One size does not fit all and Washington does not know what is best for every State.

I urge my colleagues to support State flexibility for the minimum wage and help secure the future for Americans now on welfare.

VOICES AGAINST VIOLENCE

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

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, there is a wonderful event going on in Washington, D.C. these past 2 days, and this is the Voices Against Violence event which is sponsored under the leadership of Democratic Leader DICK GEPHARDT.

Under this event, a number of young people, over 350, and their chaperons, have come to Washington to discuss the issue of violence in schools and safety in schools. I am proud to announce that our own representative, which ironically came the farthest to Washington for this, Joanna Manuel, a 10th grader at Simon Sanchez High School, and her chaperon, Mrs. Jennifer Shiroma, are avidly participating in Voices Against Violence.

As a former high school administrator, I know full well that the key to education is feeling safe and secure, particularly at the secondary school level where there are so many issues that young people have to attend to, so many temptations as they go through their development and trying to find their way in life and trying to learn content at the same time.

I want to congratulate the Democratic leadership for this fine event.

SOCIAL SECURITY LOCKBOX HELD HOSTAGE

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

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, yesterday congressional leaders and the President agreed not to raid Social Security funds to pay for next year's government spending. I wholeheartedly congratulate them on this agreement. Social Security was created in 1935 for the purpose of protecting senior Americans, not as a pool of cash accessible to those wishing to grow big government.

Mr. Speaker, this House approved my Social Security lockbox legislation 145 days ago. Yet, on six separate occasions, the minority party in the other body has voted to stop this Social Security lockbox legislation from even coming to the floor for a vote.

Mr. President, please join me in calling for the other body to free our Social Security lockbox bill they have held hostage for 145 days.

DEMOCRATS WILL PROTECT SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to tell you that our friends on the other side of the aisle have picked the lockbox on the