

We believe the Americans value Los Angeles much more than they value Taiwan.

I asked him, and I would ask all in this body and all within the sound of my voice, especially our friends, Mr. Speaker, from the PRC who may be monitoring this, how else do we interpret those remarks other than a threat?

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Reclaiming my time for a moment, that was clearly a veiled threat, if not an unveiled threat, and what was it made over? Why were they threatening us? They were threatening us because we were standing between them and intimidating the people on Taiwan not to hold free elections. They were involved with an act of aggression upon people who were trying to conduct a free election.

So now we have in the United States, we have a government that has declared the Communist Chinese our strategic partners and continue to do so even after they have made threats to blow up Los Angeles, even after they have conducted aggression in the Spratly Islands and in the South China Sea against the democratic countries and with the knowledge, as we know now from this New York Times report, that the Communist Chinese were in the midst of obtaining sensitive atomic secrets that we had paid for to build their own nuclear weapons and that we and American aerospace companies with the acquiescence of this administration had been, as my colleagues know, upgrading Communist Chinese rockets' reliability, and their effectiveness and their capabilities.

What message are we sending to the Communist Chinese, what message are we sending to our democratic allies? No wonder why the Chinese are becoming more aggressive and disdain the Clinton administration when the Clinton administration tries to warn them about anything. There is nothing that that administration can say that will be taken seriously by these militarists in Beijing when they know that our administration knows about these vile acts and these threats against us.

Mr. HAYWORTH. I would simply add, Mr. Speaker, my colleague, that those who watch around the world, Mr. Speaker, would do well to remember that ours is a constitutional republic with a Chief Executive who is, quite correctly, our commander in chief. But they should understand a lesson that oftentimes escapes them in terms of the nuances of the big picture, and it is this. This Congress constitutionally is charged with oversight. When it comes to our national security, when it comes to the well-being of this American Nation, when it comes to our legitimate concerns overseas, it is this Congress which maintains oversight of the Executive Branch, and those who feel they can inject themselves into the American political system with campaign contributions and other forms of influence and somehow change our policy, while there may be evidence of that occurring sadly, it will change.

The American people deserve nothing less than a government that deals with them honestly and protects them.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Let me reclaim my time so we know the administration will try to fuzzy this issue by claiming that some of these thefts that we are talking about started during the Reagan years. And let me be very specific when they were making this attempt to cloud this issue.

During Ronald Reagan's term of office I was working in the White House. During that time period there was a strong democracy movement building in Communist China, and, yes, we cooperated with the Communist Chinese in order to split them away from the Russians, a tactic that ended the Cold War. But at the same time we pushed for democracy.

□ 1700

We did not give meaningless platitudes to requests for democracy and human rights, and there was a thriving democracy movement that we thought could well take over China. We thought it was irreversible at the time, and it was not until the massacre at Tiananmen Square that that optimism should have been reversed.

The fact is that we could well have had a democratic country in China by now, but what happened was during those years some of this information the communists were able to steal from us but we realized that the government itself in China may be undermined by the democratic movement there.

There was an excuse for having looser controls at a time when communist China was becoming more democratic. After Tiananmen Square, when they massacred the human rights workers and the democratic movement, there is no excuse as the country, as communist China, slid further into militarism, into tyranny and into hostile positions to the United States of America. So, thus, during the Reagan years, yes, some problems happened, but during the Clinton years, when there was no excuse whatsoever because the democracy movement had been annihilated and in fact the human rights report last year of the Clinton administration noted that there has been a substantial decline in human rights even from last year, which was already on the way down, that there was no excuse for this administration to try to cover up the wrongdoing of that regime and no excuse for them to cover up the threat that that regime was putting itself in to threaten our well-being and our security by upgrading their own military capabilities, especially in their weapons of mass destruction.

So I would hope that my colleagues and the American people are not confused, intentionally confused, by this administration in an attempt to shuck the responsibility and to throw off the responsibility. For the fact that our country has been put in terrible jeopardy, at a time when they knew the

facts, when China was becoming more totalitarian, when they had been briefed on this threat, they continued to belittle those of us who were calling attention and sounding the alarm.

THE GREATER MIAMI JEWISH FEDERATION'S SUPER SUNDAY PHONATHON

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, continuing on its long tradition of service to all of us in the south Florida area, the Greater Miami Jewish Federation will hold its annual super Sunday phonathon this coming weekend, and this charitable event unites volunteers from throughout our area in an effort to raise the funds to provide necessary services to the many needy individuals in south Florida, but it extends even wider, to Israel and 60 other countries throughout the world.

As in past years, hundreds of volunteers will help raise funds that will be destined to programs that will provide free hot meals to poor elderly in our community who otherwise might go hungry. It will also assist youngsters learn more about the Jewish experience through educational programs that it offers. Moreover, Jewish refugees will be assisted with the funds through a resettlement program that aims to help these displaced persons begin a new life free of persecution from their native homelands.

The Greater Miami Jewish Federation of south Florida has become a source of pride and support for all of us in south Florida, but in particular to those who are needy. For decades, it has been the leading community activist organization that has served the less fortunate. The work of this outstanding organization is an example of how the private sector can help the less fortunate in the community at a time of dwindling government resources, and they do so with great effectiveness.

I congratulate the Greater Miami Jewish Federation on its continuing efforts to help the poor in our community and wish them the best of success to all of those involved in this worthwhile event, and I urge all of our south Florida community to come out this super Sunday and become one of the many volunteers helping the Greater Miami Jewish Federation in its very successful phonathon.

TODAY WE HAVE AN ECONOMY THAT IS EXPLODING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SCARBOROUGH) is recognized for 30 minutes.

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Mr. Speaker, I have got to say, I was running across the road today and coming over to speak in this House Chamber and saw a blizzard outside and one of the people

that I spoke to asked me, they said, what do you think about the groundhog now?

I said, well, I am not real pleased with the groundhog's prediction, and this person suggested that the groundhog that predicted that we would have no more winter should be taken out and shot.

I suggested, though, that maybe we should not be so tough on the groundhog for this faulty prediction as Washington is receiving its toughest winter storm of the year, because of the fact that sometimes in Washington, D.C. politicians and economists are not much better with their predictions.

I remember 4 years ago when we first came up to Washington, D.C. I heard over and over again that this government could not balance its budget and that our plan to restore fiscal responsibility and fiscal sanity to the way that Congress and Washington and the White House ran its business, I heard that we could not get it done.

Let us look at what happened 4 years later. Today we have an economy that is exploding. Some say that it is an economy that is stronger than any American economy ever before, and there are a lot of people that are lining up, taking credit and assigning responsibility to these great economic times.

It is very important that we remember, back over the 4 years, about what we did and what sacrifices we took to make America as strong as it is going into the new millennium.

Mr. Speaker, I remember when I first ran for Congress in 1994 talking about the need of balancing the budget, talking about the need for Americans to have a government that handled their checkbook as well as Americans handled their checkbook at home, because if we have a Federal Government that continued and continued to spend more money than it took in, it would not only damage our credibility here in Washington, it would also damage our children's possibility of pursuing the American dream that we were all able to pursue in our life.

When I first got to Washington, D.C., the deficit was at \$300 billion and the debt was approaching \$5 trillion. Now, we throw out numbers. Everybody loves throwing out numbers in Washington, D.C., and few people really understand what those numbers mean, but I can say this, what a \$300 billion deficit meant was that interest rates were up because the markets were jittery.

I remember getting elected, coming here and talking about how we were going to balance the budget in 7 years, and I remember how the President and the liberals in his administration and the liberals in this House said that balancing the budget was irresponsible and saying that it would destroy the economy.

In fact, they said balancing the budget in 7 years would wreck the United States economy, cause the markets to collapse and cause widespread unemployment and recession.

Let us look just 5 years later and see what our results were. We now have a Dow Jones average that was not at 3900 like it was when we first got here but is now at 9500. We have unemployment rates that are lower than they have been in years and years, and we have an economy that is growing at a faster rate than ever before, and it is all because we were able to discipline ourselves to do what we ask every middle class American to do, and that is spend only as much money as you take in.

So what did Alan Greenspan say back in 1995? He actually came to the Committee on the Budget, chaired by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KASICH), and he said if the Republicans are serious about balancing the budget, and if they pass this plan to balance the budget, I will predict that interest rates will drop and the economy will grow at a faster rate than it has since the end of World War II.

That is what the chairman of the Federal Reserve Board said, Alan Greenspan. All the while I love hearing columnists and pundits and pollsters saying, you cannot do it; Washington cannot balance its budget. It sounded like what people said about me when I first ran for Congress 4 years ago. They told me there was no way I could win. Well, I learned then, never say never.

We learned in the budget fight, sometimes you just kind of have to turn off your hearing aid to these pollsters and pundits, because if they were right all along we would have never even tried to balance the budget.

Now, of course, 4 years later everybody is lining up and saying what a great job they did, but it is important for us to remember who was for the balanced budget and who fought it, and what philosophy was underlying those of us who supported the balanced budget plan.

□ 1715

And what philosophy underlies those people that opposed the balanced budget plan? Let us start with the people that were against it. Unfortunately, the administration and the people on the left of this Chamber had a government and had a Congress that they controlled for 40 years, and for 40 years they believed in bigger government, more oppressive taxes, and less freedom for Americans.

In fact, we saw deficits explode well up into \$300 billion, and the way they proposed bringing the deficit down was by raising America's taxes. In fact, in 1993, they passed the largest single tax increase in the history of this great republic, and believed that they could not cut government spending. Well, we believed otherwise, and we still believe otherwise, that the Federal Government spends too much of American taxpayers' dollars. But taxes kept exploding. We came in and tried to cut them down; we passed some tax cuts, but all along the administration has fought us and the liberals have fought us time and time again. Now, they say

they are for tax cuts, but when push comes to shove, they just will not propose them.

Why is that? It is because at the heart of their philosophy, at the heart of the philosophy that ran Washington for 40 years, they believe that big government is the solution. We believe, Mr. Speaker, that the big hearts of America, that the communities of America, that the families and individuals in America are the ones who should make the decision on how to spend their money.

I remember right after the President left Washington a few weeks ago, he went up to Buffalo, and up in Buffalo, he spoke to a crowd about tax cuts, and he was highly critical of Republicans' plans to cut America's taxes. What the President said I think really, really was insightful and revealing in that it offered us a very small window into his core beliefs regarding government. Because the President has been very good lately engaging in what he calls triangulation, taking Republican issues and trying to make them his own without really doing anything significant on it. But the President said to this crowd in Buffalo, sure, we can do what the Republicans are proposing to do. We could cut your taxes, let you keep more of your money and hope you spend your money wisely. But the President went on to say that this just could not be so because Americans might spend their money irresponsibly.

I think therein lies the difference, therein really is the crux of the problem of big government liberalism. There is this belief that politicians and bureaucrats in Washington, D.C. know how to spend Americans' money better than Americans. There is also a belief that Washington bureaucrats and politicians know how to teach our children better than we do, and there is also a belief that Washington politicians and bureaucrats know how to run our communities better than we do.

Mr. Speaker, this is a philosophy of the past. In much the same way that socialism has collapsed across the globe throughout the latter half of the 20th century, I believe that this more refined American version of socialism that started some time back will soon collapse as we enter the new millennium. Why? Because we are a Nation of individuals. We have always been a Nation of individuals, and in this new generation and this new millennium that we are about to enter, the technologies that are going to free us will make us more individualistic and make us more free, and make us less reliant on an oppressive, centralized State.

It is about freedom. It is about the freedom of Americans to work as hard as they want to work without the fear of being punished by Washington, D.C. It is about the belief that Americans can school their children the way they want to school their children, without bureaucrats in the Department of Education coming in and oppressing them. It is about the belief that in America,

a young entrepreneur can still start with \$5,000 in his garage and begin a company that grows into a huge organization like Microsoft.

Only in America can that still happen.

Unfortunately, only in America do we find a Federal Government that is so opposed to this entrepreneurial spirit. Why, the Justice Department has been hammering against Microsoft over the past months and years, because Microsoft works. Just like capital gains taxes continue to go up, because these people who are the most productive are the ones that our Federal Government punishes.

My gosh, ask anybody in Seattle, Washington what this little start-up company that started with 2 men and \$5,000 in a garage has meant to the economy, not only of the Pacific Northwest, not only of America, but of the world. And yet all they get is harassment from the Federal Government and a Justice Department that should be spending more time looking at how the Chinese influenced the 1996 presidential elections than how one or two young men's dreams created a company and a force that has literally changed western civilization and eastern civilization.

But only in America. Only in America do we say to people that dare to go out and work hard, if you work hard, we are going to tax you hard. And if you work harder, and if you create more jobs and more opportunity and more wealth and more hope for all Americans, we are going to punish you more. You are going to pay more in capital gains taxes. And heaven forbid, if you are a mother and a father that starts a mom and pop store, or own a farm, you get your hands down in the dirt everyday and work hard every single day of your adult life, with the hopes of one day passing this dream on to your children, in America we say, good for you, just do not die. Because when you die, we are going to tax you 55 percent on all of your property, on all of your property that we have already taxed 8 or 9 times while you were alive, and we will make it impossible for your children to take your family business and to take your family farm and to support themselves and to support their children.

That does not make sense. The death tax does not make sense, Mr. Speaker. The capital gains tax that punishes creativity and punishes job growth does not make sense. Mr. Speaker, something else that does not make sense is a tax system that makes middle class American families making between \$40,000 and \$60,000 pay 28 percent of their income to the Federal Government. I have no idea why we cannot move that bracket up to have people making from \$40,000 to \$65,000 pay in a tax bracket of 15 percent. How much money will be lost to the Federal Government that it cannot do without? How much money of hard-working Americans does the Federal Govern-

ment need to continue to grow its operations? How much more money are we going to raise in taxes from the sweat and the toil of middle class Americans?

Mr. Speaker, I hear the tired, worn-out arguments of class warfare every single week that I take to this House floor, and I know this. I know the simple truth of Abraham Lincoln that one cannot punish the wage-maker without hurting the wage-earner. But that is what our government does.

I also know that we cannot continue to allow this Federal Government to grow and grow and grow without destroying the economy. We have learned the lessons of 1995 and 1996 to find ourselves in 1999 with an exploding economy. Sure, cutting taxes helps the economy grow, but cutting government spending also helps the economy grow, and we have learned that lesson. And to hear people take to the floor from the extreme left talking about the spade of new government programs they want to start to help Americans makes one scratch one's head and wonder, where have they been the past 4 years? Because they had a chance for 40 years to balance the budget and they did not do it. They had their chance in 1995 to help conservatives balance the budget. They did not do it. They had the chance in 1996 to climb on board and help us balance the budget. They did not do it. And they have a chance in 1999 to help us stay on the road, to stay within the budget caps, to balance the budget. The question is, will they do it?

Mr. Speaker, I hope they will, but I have to say, the past 40 years does not offer us much hope.

Mr. Speaker, I recall coming here, being shown this wonderful House Chamber by a Member of the House, and he took out his voting card and it has a picture, the voting card has a picture on it and you slip it in the back of one of these seats and one's vote is automatically recorded. And he showed it to me and he says, Joe, this is our \$5 trillion credit card. And he laughed a little laugh, as did I.

Mr. Speaker, if we think about it, it is not really that funny, because that \$5 trillion, now \$5.4 trillion that this government has spent into the red is \$5.4 trillion that we borrowed from our children and from our children's children. We are now told that if we are responsible; in fact, the CBO, the Congressional Budget Office says if we do nothing but be responsible and live by the Balanced Budget Act, we will see the end of that \$5 trillion debt in the next 15 years.

Mr. Speaker, that is something worth fighting for. Certainly something that provides hope not only to my 2 boys in Pensacola, Florida, but to children across this country, to parents that hope for a better life, and for immigrants that come from other shores coming to America. That city that Ronald Reagan talked about shining brightly on the HILL for all the world to see, that is the hope. If only we in

this House and Members in the Senate and people in the administration understand that we gave our word in 1997 with the Balanced Budget Act, and now is not the time, nor is it the place, for us to break our word.

□ 1730

If we spend one cent more than we promised to spend in 1997, that is one cent too much, because that is a violation of our word to the American people, and most importantly, to ourselves.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that we in Washington can get by on less so Americans can get by with more. I believe, like Thomas Jefferson, that the government that governs least governs best. I believe, in the words of James Madison, that we have staked the entire future of the American civilization, not upon the power of government but upon the power of the American people.

It is time for us to renew our vow and our pledge, not only to the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, but to the vision and the wisdom and the courage of the George Washingtons and the Thomas Jeffersons and the Ben Franklins and the James Madisons, and to those great patriots that fought so fiercely for all Americans' liberties over 222 years ago.

Mr. Speaker, if we are true to our word and true to their memory, then I know that the next century will also be the next great American century.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 800, EDUCATION FLEXIBILITY PARTNERSHIP ACT OF 1999

Mr. DREIER, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 106-46) on the resolution (H. Res. 100) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 800) to provide for education flexibility partnerships, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. BILBRAY (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today, on account of personal reasons.

Mr. DIXON (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today through March 11, on account of official travel.

Mrs. MALONEY of New York (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today, on account of bad weather.

Mr. REYES (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today through March 11, on account of official business.

Ms. SANCHEZ (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today, on account of official business.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today, on account of bad weather.