

us by offering real leadership to pass a real Lockbox bill.

REPUBLICAN BUDGET PLAN MAKING WRONG DECISIONS

(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, the Republican leadership's budget plan does not make the tough decisions that we were sent here to make. Instead, it makes wrong decisions. According to their own, their own accounting office, the Republican leadership has already spent \$13 billion from Social Security. In fact, they have picked the lockbox.

This money should not be spent. It should be kept in the Social Security Trust Fund so that we are prepared when the baby-boomers retire. No amount of rhetoric can change the facts. The Republican leadership is spending Social Security, despite the priorities of the American people.

This budget is a windfall for special interests, billions of dollars for military equipment that the Pentagon does not even want. Billions more will go for corporate welfare that opens public lands to oil and timber interests. Yet the budget cuts funding for smaller classes, which would improve discipline and give children more individual attention. It also cuts funding for police officers that have reduced crime in our neighborhoods. It ignores the fact that our seniors need a moderate Medicare program with a prescription drug benefit. It is irresponsible and poorly planned.

PROTECTING THE SOCIAL SECURITY TRUST FUND

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

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, it is crunch time. After today, eight of the 13 spending bills will be signed into law. Seventy percent of our budget will be law. The remaining five spending bills will complete the financial responsibility for the U.S. Government. When we are done, we will have balanced the Federal budget without spending one cent of the Social Security surplus.

Using bogus ground rules, some liberals are saying that we have already spent the Social Security surplus. It is not true. But, Mr. Speaker, if they are so concerned, they should vote for our across-the-board 1.29 percent savings. That will protect the Social Security Trust Fund. All you have to do is crunch about 1 cent out of every dollar of Federal spending, discretionary spending, and we will save it.

It is crunch time, Mr. Speaker, time to crunch Government waste and save the Social Security Trust Fund.

CONGRATULATING THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE SPANISH AMERICAN LEAGUE AGAINST DISCRIMINATION

(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 would like to congratulate the men and women of the Spanish-American League Against Discrimination, SALAD, who are dedicated to promoting the intellectual, educational, economic and social progress of Hispanics, as well as other ethnic groups.

As many of us enjoy the peace and prosperity of our Nation's economic growth, some have blinded ourselves to the persisting culture of bigotry which can be aimed at Hispanics and other minority groups.

For 25 years the hard working group at SALAD has sought to defend Hispanics and others from this mistrust. With the assistance of SALAD, communities are learning that given a level playing field, Hispanic Americans, and, indeed, all Americans, can achieve their goals, if they educate themselves, work hard, and never give up on their dreams.

I congratulate the Spanish American League Against Discrimination, and especially its president and founder, Dr. Osvaldo Soto, on SALAD's 25th Silver Anniversary.

COMMITTING ENOUGH MONEY TO THE EDUCATION OF OUR CHILDREN

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the entire appropriations process has been short circuited because of the Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill. This is wrong. It is the very last appropriations bill that we are going to be considering. In fact, it should have been marked up and dealt with the first, instead of last. And here it is, being brought to the floor without going through the Committee on Rules. It was crafted in some back room, and it is squeezed into a conference committee report that was already vetoed by the President, the District of Columbia Appropriations Act. Now, is that not the tail wagging the dog?

Education appropriations is so important to the whole country, and yet we are going to piggyback the District of Columbia appropriations bill out of the conference committee. The bill has a 1.4 percent cut in education spending, which works out to be \$400 million. The funding for education is \$100 million below what the President asked for and \$700 million below what our colleagues in the Senate passed.

This bill would eliminate one of our most important initiatives, class size reduction, by making it into a \$1.2 billion block grant.

I had the opportunity yesterday to be in Houston before I came back to Washington, and saw the success of Title I funding and bilingual funding in our Houston schools.

HANDS OFF THE SOCIAL SECURITY SURPLUS

(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 Texas, because he proves a seminal point in this budget debate: there is no program under the aegis of the left that is worthy of realizing any savings.

That is the bottom line. This entire debate is about our friends of the liberal persuasion wanting to spend more and more and more and more of the American people's money.

Now, what we are talking about is a fairly generous sum, over \$1.7 trillion, in this year's budget. We simply say hands off the Social Security surplus. Do not spend it on non-Americans, as the President wants to do in vetoing our foreign aid bill. Let us put our Nation's interests first. Let us be good stewards of the American people's tax dollar.

For every \$10 spent, we can realize a savings certainly of 13 cents. But, then again, Mr. Speaker, I understand this is Washington; and, then again, there are those who will defend waste.

NO MEANS NO WHEN IT COMES TO PROTECTING SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, as the White House said it best, John Podesta, the Chief of Staff, said, "The Republicans' key goal is not to spend the Social Security surplus." That comes from the leading liberal Democrat over there.

Indeed, that is what we have done. This chart right here shows, particularly on the bottom part, that we have in fact not spent any of the Social Security surplus. It is very important.

But now where are the Democrats on this process? Well, here is the minority leader. "The Democrats will spend a little bit of the money." He is saying that we should not try to do it, but we are going to have to do it.

That is the difference right now between the Democrats and the Republicans. Republicans are saying, "No means no. We don't want to spend any Social Security money for balancing the budget." The Democrats are saying, "Let's spend a little bit of it."

Now, what is our way of getting around it? We say that out of every \$10 in spending, ten bucks, we are asking the Federal Government agencies to save 13 cents. That is all it is, save 13

cents. To give an example, the President went to Africa last year and took 1,700 people. Two would have had to stay at home under our plan.

JOINING TOGETHER TO SAVE SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I am going to try to give a quick 1-minute summary. For the 40 years before the Republicans took the majority in this House, spending of the United States Government increased faster than inflation every year. Now we are starting to bring that spending increase down, and we have balanced the budget without using Social Security money for the first time in 40 years this year.

Despite the fact that we have reduced discretionary spending as a percent of GDP for the past five years we are still using 20.8 percent of the gross domestic product of this country in spending and running this Federal Government, the highest spending in history, the highest rate of taxation in history. Now we are asking departments just to try to hold the line, to increase efficiency, to get rid of some waste and some fraud and some abuse in their spending.

You have heard the figure one percent. That is how much we need to reduce what is authorized. It is 0.8 percent of outlays, 0.8 percent reduction in what is now expected to be spent. We are saying to those administrators, directors, department heads, try to look at efficiencies to save 8 cents out of every \$10. Correct and stop some of the fraud and abuse. Mr. Speaker, they can do it. Let us do it. Let us join together. Let us save Social Security.

A PENNY SAVED IS RETIREMENT SECURED

(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. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to set the record straight. Despite the accusations being lodged by the Democrat tax-and-spend caucus, the Republican plan to save Social Security for millions of Americans does not mandate cutting any government programs. It does not touch Medicare, Medicaid, veterans' pensions, food stamps, or any other important benefits program.

Instead, it makes the heads of Federal agencies more accountable for how they spend the taxpayers' hard-earned money. We are telling them we think they can do better and we are telling them they must work to eliminate waste, fraud, and abuse in their agencies, because if they don't, they will jeopardize the retirement security for three generations of Americans.

No longer will Congress stand idly by as the Washington big spenders live like parasites off the retirement dollars of working Americans. The Republican Congress will set aside 1 penny of every Federal dollar to meet our commitment to the American people. A penny saved is retirement secured.

SECURING SOCIAL SECURITY FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, Sunday the Democratic leader of the Congress, RICHARD GEPHARDT, showed his party's true colors. While the Republican majority has made a commitment to the American people to spend not a penny of the Social Security surplus, the Democratic leader feels differently. He said yesterday, "We really ought to spend as little of it as possible."

Is that not grand? "As little as possible." We all know what that means. It means that the Democrats here in Congress want to spend more money on government and use what is left for Social Security.

That is just not good enough. We can meet our commitment to our Nation's retirees by setting aside barely a penny, a penny, of every dollar that government spends. It is that simple.

While the bureaucrats in Washington might be upset that they will have to eliminate some waste, fraud, and abuse in their agencies, the American people will be happy to know that their retirements are secure. Let us just do it.

NATION AWAITS ADMINISTRATION'S PLAN FOR SAVING SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, as I did last week and previous days, to again request that the administration deliver to the House its plan for Social Security.

Now, I saw the report in the newspaper this weekend about the President's pending delivery; but, in fact, there is nothing here yet. We are now on day 299 from when I first got here, still looking for that plan.

Mr. Speaker, we have reserved H.R. 1 for this purpose. We are still waiting. Talk is talk, and action is action. Now is the time for action.

I ask that the administration finally deliver its plan for Social Security. The Nation awaits.

□ 1030

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KOLBE). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule

XX, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Rollcall votes on postponed questions may be taken in two groups, the first occurring before debate has concluded on all motions to suspend the rules, and the second after debate has concluded on remaining motions.

TWO YEAR EXTENSION OF PERIOD FOR ADMISSION OF AN ALIEN AS A NONIMMIGRANT

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3061) to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to extend for an additional 2 years the period for admission of an alien as a nonimmigrant under section 101(a)(15)(S) of such Act, and to authorize appropriations for the refugee assistance program under chapter 2 of title IV of the Immigration and Nationality Act.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3061

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

In light of the increasing problem of alien smuggling into the United States, it is the sense of the Congress that the Attorney General should use the provision of nonimmigrant status under section 101(a)(15)(S) of the Immigration and Nationality Act in a greater number of alien smuggling investigations per year than has been done in the past.

SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATION FOR ADMISSION OF "S" VISA NONIMMIGRANTS.

Section 214(k)(2) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1184(k)(2)) is amended by striking "5" and inserting "7".

SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR REFUGEE ASSISTANCE.

Section 414(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1524(a)) is amended by striking "1998 and 1999" and inserting "2000 through 2002".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) and the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3061 reauthorizes two longstanding important immigration programs, both of which ran out in