

REPUBLICANS ARE PROTECTING SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, for 30 years, the liberal Washington big spenders have mortgaged America's future. For 30 years they have raided Social Security to pay for more and bigger government programs. The Washington big spenders have put big government programs ahead of retirement security for hardworking Americans. Thankfully this Republican-led Congress has changed that. We have put the Social Security surplus in a lockbox and we are not spending a dime of it.

I would ask our Democratic leadership colleagues on the other side to once and for all stop the raid on Social Security, stop throwing away taxpayers money on wasteful government programs. This country must move forward with a responsible and balanced fiscal budget.

Republicans are holding a Federal Government spring cleaning today. We are getting rid of the unnecessary and redundant programs, we are peeling back the layers of bureaucracy and we are throwing out the President's request to raise taxes and spend more money on wasteful government programs. To the Democratic leadership, I ask for the sake of America's future that you join with Republicans and stop the raid on Social Security and protect our fiscal household.

REGARDING TRAGEDY IN ARMENIA

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

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, our hearts go out today to the families of Prime Minister Sarkisian, Speaker Demirchian and all of those who lost their lives yesterday in the violent attack in Yerevan. And we join with freedom-loving peoples throughout the world in expressing solidarity with President Kocharian and the Armenian people as they continue to promote democracy in their great country.

Mr. Speaker, if the forces of violence think they are going to reverse what happened in September of 1991, they are sadly mistaken. I was in Armenia on its independence day. I watched in awe as 95 percent of all the people over the age of 18 went out and voted. I watched them stand in line for hours to have that opportunity which had been denied to them for so long. Their spirit is strong. They shall not be deterred. The dream shall never die.

Ketse azat ankakh hayastan. Long live free and independent Armenia.

REPUBLICANS WILL NOT STEAL FROM SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. GARY MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, the Democrat leaders' strategy seems to be to obstruct and delay the budget process. According to Monday's Roll Call newspaper article, Democrat Leader GEPHARDT is telling Members not to support appropriations bills even if they are the product of bipartisan negotiations.

Why would the gentleman from Missouri oppose Democrats and Republicans working together to finish the people's business? What benefit is there in this strategy? Who does the gentleman from Missouri represent when he says do not work with Republicans, do not pass appropriations bills, do not get anything done? This is not what the constituents of my district and the American people want. They want us to pass a balanced budget without raiding Social Security.

Mr. GEPHARDT, please abandon the strategy of gridlock and delay and instead join us in finishing a budget that does not steal from Social Security.

MESSAGE ON REPUBLICAN BUDGET BILL

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

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, on the eve of Halloween, Republicans have many tricks to play on the American people but no treats, and it starts with today's Labor-HHS vote. This bill does not extend the life of Social Security even by one single day. In fact, Republicans, that is why the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT) does not want to support some of these bills because you have already spent \$17 billion of Social Security surplus through your appropriation process.

This bill fails to provide one penny for a Medicare prescription drug benefit, and this bill only does things that ultimately hurt every American family in some real way. Just like your trillion-dollar tax cut would have saddled our children with a huge debt without extending the life of Social Security and Medicare or making investments in education. And the final trick included in this bill is a 1 percent across-the-board cut that deals a blow to those struggling with diabetes when we cut the National Institutes of Health or to the child in my district walking into an overcrowded classroom.

Let us give the American people a real treat by voting against this bill, a bill that does nothing for Social Security, nothing for Medicare and hurts every American family.

IBERO-AMERICAN SUMMIT

(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, our allies in the hemisphere are raising their voices on behalf of freedom and democracy on the enslaved island of Cuba. The Presidents of El Salvador, Nicaragua, Argentina, Chile, and Costa Rica have announced that they will not be attending the Ibero-American summit to be held this month in Cuba. They do not want to legitimize the subjugation of the Cuban people any longer.

In his announcement, in fact, President Rodriguez of Costa Rica emphasized that "the Ibero-American summit is an act of profound political meaning in which the consolidation of the democracy and political development of our countries should always be promoted together with the full respect of human rights." He referred to his September letter to Castro where he stated that far from becoming better, the situation of human rights and democracy has actually worsened in recent months in Cuba.

May the other democratic leaders invited to the summit also find the courage to acknowledge the truth and support the Cuban people and not their oppressor.

DEMOCRATIC PLAN PROTECTS SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, my constituents are perplexed. At the beginning of this session both Democrats and Republicans talked about how important it was to protect Social Security. Now we have the last appropriation bill being considered today and the Republican record is in. The Republican partisan budget uses gimmicks such as a 13th month and directed scorekeeping to spend Social Security money, even though they would say that they are not. They propose large tax cuts that clearly jeopardize our ability to meet our obligations under Social Security, and at the end of the day they have not extended the life of Social Security even one day.

The President has submitted a plan that Democrats support that would extend the Social Security system by at least 16 years. If we all agree that Social Security is so important, that it is keeping our seniors out of poverty and giving them a decent opportunity within our community, then why are we not working in a bipartisan way to get a realistic budget that will really protect Social Security?

REPUBLICAN PLAN PROTECTS SOCIAL SECURITY

(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, is there a single American who believes that government waste, fraud and abuse does not really exist? I do not think so. Examples of misuse of the taxpayers' hard-earned money are far too plentiful. Just ask the 26,000 dead people who received food stamps in a single year. Or ask the folks in Russia who got to enjoy Ben & Jerry's ice cream at the expense of the American taxpayer. Or ask the defense contractor who charged the Pentagon \$714 for an electric bell that I could have bought at Lowe's hardware for \$46. Mr. Speaker, I could go on, but my point is simple. The Republican plan to take one cent, this is one penny, one cent of every dollar of the Federal bureaucracy is not only responsible, it is necessary.

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I find these misuses of taxpayer money outrageous. What makes them more outrageous is the Federal Government has been raiding Social Security for 30 years to pay for this kind of thing. One penny, 1 percent. Believe me, there is at least that much fat in every bureaucracy that can be eliminated. It is minimal, it is fair, it is the right direction.

OPPOSE SEVERE REPUBLICAN CUTS TO OUR NATION'S DOMESTIC PROGRAMS

(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. We are engaged in a very serious matter this week as we near a budget reconciliation. The Republican leadership is urging that we make severe cuts to our Nation's domestic programs, and, as my colleagues know, this is just after the last 4 or 5 months when they said there was so much money there they could return \$800 billion. But today they are telling us not only can they not do that, but they have got to cut the funding programs of the national government.

Mr. Speaker, as the daughter of a school teacher and a member of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, I am particularly concerned that education will be severely affected. The majority spending bill would cut the national class size reduction program, after-school care, reading and math programs, Head Start and teacher training programs; but the damage would extend beyond the classroom. It would hit senior citizens, American working families, family caregivers, even the survivors of Hurricane Floyd.

I will oppose the HHS bill today, and I hope the rest of my colleagues will also.

THE REPUBLICAN CONGRESS SAYS STOP THE RAID

(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, according to the most recent government audit, Federal agencies were unable to account for over 800 billion in Federal assets. My colleagues heard me right, \$800 billion. That would have to be a pretty big lost and found for all of that missing stuff, but in reality there is no Federal lost and found; and I am betting all that property is lost for good, Mr. Speaker.

That is a disgrace, and what makes it even worse and even more disgraceful is that \$800 billion, that could have been used to strengthen Social Security. While the Federal Government was losing all that property, it was raiding the Social Security Trust Fund to keep growing the size of government without increase in the accountability for how the taxpayers' money was spent.

Mr. Speaker, the Republican Congress is telling the President and the Democrat leadership that it is time to stop the raid, and we are asking them to join us in setting aside one penny of every Federal dollar to strengthen Social Security for the American people. It is our plan, it is fair, and it is responsible, and it is the right thing to do.

FAILURE OF THE WAR ON DRUGS DUE TO WIDE OPEN BORDERS

(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, everybody in America is confused. After spending billions and billions of dollars on this War on Drugs, they cannot figure out why it has failed. Beam me up, Mr. Speaker. It does not take a rocket scientist to figure this out.

Water runs downhill, and drugs pour across our borders. Our borders are wide open. Heroin and cocaine are stone-cold imports, and heroin and cocaine flood across our borders.

I think it is time to do something about our borders, and our streets and our kids that are strung out, 12-year-olds in New York and Philadelphia on heroin.

I yield back, Mr. Speaker, the stupidity of Congress in dealing with the problem of narcotics.

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, today is Day 154 of the Social Security lockbox held hostage by Senate Democrats. 154 days ago House Republicans and Democrats joined together to pass a bill I authored, H.R. 1259, the Social Security and Medicare Safe Deposit Box of 1999, by an overwhelming 416 to 12 vote. The

House of Representatives has made a commitment to not spend one penny of the Social Security Trust Fund on unrelated programs. Senate Republicans have attempted to bring this lockbox to the Senate floor seven times, and on seven occasions the measure was blocked from even being considered by a straight party-line vote.

Mr. Speaker, American seniors deserve more from Senate Democrats. They deserve a lockbox for their Social Security dollars.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHAW). The Chair cautions that Members should avoid references to the other body.

WHAT HAVE THE REPUBLICANS DONE?

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

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, today the Republican-controlled House considers the last of the appropriations bills a month late, no budget, no reconciliation. But what have they done?

They have failed to extend the life of Social Security by even a single day. In fact, they have spent \$17 billion out of the Social Security Trust Fund. They have failed to provide for a fix of the Medicare system to cover our elderly citizens. In fact, they failed to even consider a prescription drug benefit for our elderly citizens. Their budget, while failing to do this, hurts American families in every way. Their budget today will cut money from education.

Mr. Speaker, think of the disappointment of parents who thought they were going to be able to send their children to a smaller class size so their children would have a better opportunity at learning to read, at learning to deal with mathematics. No, those parents will not have that opportunity, and yet all of the research tells us that if their children were able to have lower class sizes, they would have a better opportunity to learn.

But the Republicans do not address that, they do not address Social Security, and they harm Medicare.

CONFUSION

(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 have in my hand the budget submitted by the President of the United States in his State of the Union, and on page 366 it details the various outlays, receipts and surplus for the upcoming fiscal year and the ensuing four. However I