

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.

□ 1015

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

also have in my hand the President's Social Security plan; and, lo and behold, the President's Social Security plan, delivered to the House with much ado and great fanfare, assumes a \$50 billion reduction in discretionary spending for Fiscal Year 2000 as the predicate clause for this savings he is going to use to save Social Security.

Fifty billion dollars. No suggestion of offsets. No suggestions of reality. No input from the Congress. Just a blanket \$50 billion reduction in discretionary spending.

I am confused, and apparently the President is, too.

#### A 1-PERCENT CUT IN THE BUDGET DOES NOT CUT WASTE

(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 Social Security program is one of our most successful domestic programs ever created. It guarantees retirement security benefits for millions of Americans, and yet what we are seeing now today as the Republican majority's budget process uses 17 billion in Social Security Trust Fund, this budget process did nothing for Social Security, did nothing for Medicare and hurts every family. The bill does not extend Social Security 1 day, 1 day, and it provides not one penny for a prescription benefit for Medicare recipients. The only thing it does do is it hurts every American family, but they did want to provide an irresponsible tax cut that somehow they forgot about the last few days.

A 1-percent cut in the budget does not cut waste. Ninety-nine percent spending for a carrier that the Navy does not want and does not need is still 99 percent waste. What they are doing though is saying: well, we are not going to cut our pork; we are going to cut everybody. But let me tell my colleagues that carrier is still going to be built, and it is still going to be waste.

The budget gimmick of putting off the research for medical with the NIH is atrocious. What they are doing is playing with people's lives that have cancer and diabetes, just to name a few.

#### HOW REPUBLICANS VOTED IN 1935

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

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, how many times have you heard it from that side of the aisle, the Democrats, that Republicans voted against creation of the Social Security program back in 1935? That is flat wrong. If ever a vote has been mischaracterized, this is it. Here are the facts, and many of our colleagues might be surprised to know that 79 percent of the 95 Republicans who voted in the House voted for

this important program; and in the Senate, 75 percent of the 20 Republicans who voted cast their vote in support of this legislation. What is even more interesting about this vote is that over a dozen Democrats voted against this measure. Following this line of reasoning, it could be said that Democrats did not support the Social Security Act when this was approved in 1935.

The truth is that both Republicans and Democrats voted to enact this legislation to establish this important program. Let the record speak for itself.

#### CUT WASTE, NOT PROGRAMS

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

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to oppose this irresponsible Republican brought-to-the-floor budget bill. This bill does not extend the life of Social Security by 1 day. It does nothing to deal with the problem of high prescription drug prices, does not add one penny for Medicare prescription drug benefit. It does, though, hurt West Virginia families in very real ways.

People talk about cutting waste, a 1 percent cut across the board they say will cut waste. Well, let us find the waste and cut that, but let us not go after the very programs that West Virginia families depend upon. For instance, the Head Start mother who is going to find that her child will not be able to go to Head Start. Or what about the family who is concerned about the war on crime and finds out that 110 FBI agents will have to be cut under this? What about the veteran that came up to me at the Black Walnut Festival concerned about veterans health care and finds out the real cuts in veterans health care in this budget bill? And what about the hundreds of students in high poverty areas that are not going to qualify for the educational assistance programs they have been receiving?

Bad bill, Mr. Speaker. Vote it down.

#### EMPOWER HEALTH CARE CONSUMERS

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

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, currently employers and employees can set aside pre-tax money that can be used for out-of-pocket health care expenses and co-payments and deductibles, and these are called flexible spending accounts. There is a problem in the current law, Mr. Speaker, and that is, if our constituents use these accounts and they do not completely use them up at the end of the year, that money reverts to the employer.

I have a bill, H.R. 3034, that would fix this use-it-or-lose-it provision and would allow this to be rolled over from

year to year; and basically under my legislation, which I hope the House will pass, \$3,000 annually can be put into these accounts. This would help portability. In other words, these accounts can go from job to job as employees change jobs. It would boost consumer choice because one would not be locked into the current health insurance plan. They could use this money at their own discretion. It would help the doctor-patient relationship by empowering consumers to make their own decisions about their own health care needs, and it would help control health insurance costs.

I hope all of my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, will support this legislation.

#### TREAT OUR SENIORS BETTER

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

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, good morning.

I rise to speak about how we treat those in the twilight of life, our seniors, our parents and our grandparents.

Contrary to what my colleagues may have heard earlier this morning, Democrats have always supported Social Security. On the other hand, Republican leaders have not. They have, in fact, urged that it be abolished, phased out or, Mr. Speaker, let it wither on the vine.

Specifically today, however, they are talking about not spending the Social Security Trust Fund, but unfortunately the CBO has documented that in fact they have spent it to the tune of \$17 billion of Social Security Trust Fund money that is being spent by the Republican leadership in this year's budget.

□ 1030

Do not be fooled by the gimmicks and the 13-month year. The fact of the matter is they are spending Social Security.

Additionally, they do not extend the solvency of Social Security. President Clinton and the Democrats have a proposal to extend the solvency of the Social Security trust fund to the year 2050.

Third, they do not do a thing about providing a prescription drug benefit for seniors. We have a proposal to provide prescription drug benefits in the Medicare Program.

Let us treat our seniors better. Let us reject the Republican budget proposals.

#### TRIBUTE TO VIRGIL COVINGTON, PRINCIPAL, WINBURN MIDDLE SCHOOL

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

Mr. FLETCHER. Mr. Speaker, I want to interrupt this demagoguery from