

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.

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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

the other side to talk about a very important individual back in my district.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge an outstanding educator and leader within Central Kentucky, a man who has dedicated his life not only to improving education, but making sure students strive to do the very best they possibly can. He is a principal who has touched and improved the lives of so many throughout his years of dedicated service to our community.

Recently, the Kentucky Education Commissioner recognized this outstanding principal, Mr. Virgil Covington, as being one of 172 selected to receive the National Educators Award from the Milken Foundation. Next summer, Mr. Covington will join other recipients in California for a week-long conference, but today he receives praises and congratulations from the school system, community, parents and children that he has strived so hard to serve over the years.

It is obvious that he has worked to produce positive change, while making sure that no one is left behind within his middle school.

Today I join my community in recognizing an outstanding principal who has made a significant contribution to the education of our children. I find it most fitting that he receive this prestigious award.

BUDGET DEAL IS A DO-NOTHING BILL

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

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, the Republican budget deal is a do-nothing bill, nothing for Social Security, nothing for Medicare. It hurts every family. The Republican budget bill does nothing to extend the life of Social Security, even by one single day. It fails to provide one penny for Medicare prescription drug benefits. The only thing it does do is hurt every family, every American family, every family, in a very real way.

When it comes to Social Security and Medicare, the Republican budget deal is not right, it is not fair, it is not just; it is dead wrong.

ELIMINATE GOVERNMENT WASTE TO SAVE SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, this is what it is all about today. We are making a choice: Government waste, or Social Security. This is what it is all about.

My friends on the other side of the aisle for 30 years raided the Social Security trust fund and ran up massive deficits. We are putting a stop to that practice, because we want to stop the raid on Social Security, and we think it is about time.

Let me ask this question: Is there anyone who honestly believes that there is not 1 percent waste, fraud and abuse in the Federal Government? Folks back home in the south side of Chicago and the south suburbs believe there is a lot more than just 1 percent of the Federal Government budget going to waste.

We think it is time to eliminate it. That is what it is all about today. We are going to vote today to cut government waste in order to protect the Social Security trust fund.

Now, there is an alternative. As you know, the Bill Clinton Democratic budget calls for a \$238 billion tax increase as an alternative to cutting government waste.

Let us stop the raid on Social Security. Let us cut government waste. We have that opportunity today.

BUDGET GIMMICKS AT THE EXPENSE OF AMERICA'S HEALTH

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

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I say to my colleague from Illinois, if you are interested in government waste, cut out the boondoggles in your bills, including in the districts of your leadership. These bills do nothing for Social Security, they do nothing for Medicare, and they will hurt every family.

They also engage in budgeting by deceit. They say they have not raided Social Security, but they have, by \$17 billion. Now they are engaging in deceit by delay.

Here is the headline in the Post: "Hill negotiators," that means Republicans, "agree to delay part of NIH research budget." Here is what NIH says: "These delays would hurt or could seriously hamper research efforts. To accommodate this delay, NIH would have to delay funding of over 8,000 new research grants until the final days of FY 2000, research for cancer, research for heart disease, research on diabetes."

Republican budget gimmicks at the expense of America's health.

JOIN BIPARTISAN EFFORT TO SAVE SOCIAL SECURITY

(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 think we should all be pleased that President Clinton has finally come around to the Republican view that we should not spend a penny of Social Security on other programs. Since the President had initially wanted to spend billions of Social Security surplus on some of his big government programs, I think this is real progress.

However, I am concerned that instead of helping us cut spending to reach that goal, the President wants to increase excise taxes on working Amer-

icans. Mr. Speaker, the American people are taxed enough. It is through their hard work that the budget is now balanced. We have a budget surplus. There is no reason for us to raise taxes one penny on lower and middle income Americans to pay for bigger government. That would be wrong.

So I urge my Democrat colleagues to drop their plan to raise taxes on working Americans and join us in a bipartisan effort to save Social Security.

BUDGET GIMMICKS TO HURT ALL AMERICANS

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

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, today we see the full budget from the Republicans. We can see the USS Mississippi, that the Navy does not want, sailing into the harbor, and we say we want to cut government waste. The Navy does not want that ship.

What we really have, and the gentleman from Michigan raised it, are gimmicks in this budget that are going to hurt every single American. This does nothing for Medicare, it does nothing for Social Security. What it says to the National Institutes of Health is, we are going to give you more, but we are not going to give you one single penny of that money until next year on the 28th of September.

Now, for the average American, imagine if your boss said I am going to give you a big increase in your pay, but you do not get any of it until next year on the 28th of September. How would you live while you waited for that to happen?

Anybody who is worried about a member of their family who has diabetes, HIV, cancer, Alzheimer's disease, if you are waiting for the National Institutes of Health to come up with a way to help those people, these guys have said, wait for a year. Hold your breath.

This is a bad bill.

REGARDING THE ASSASSINATION OF THE ARMENIAN PRIME MINISTER AND OTHER GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS IN YEREVAN, ARMENIA

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

Mr. ROGAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise with great heaviness in my heart. I ask my colleagues to join me today in paying tribute to Armenian Prime Minister Vazgen Sargissian, Armenian Speaker Karen Demirchian, and the six other Armenian government officials gunned down yesterday in cold blood in the Capital City of Yerevan.

I first met the late prime minister last month when I visited Yerevan. We had a candid and penetrating conversation. He was so cordial that he later asked me to cancel my evening schedule to join him for dinner.