

the President pound the tables and thump their chests over the final budget decisions of this year. Our jobs are to look past the theatrics and to make decisions based upon principle.

This year we sat forth an ambitious goal that we would hold the line on spending instead of dipping into the Social Security Trust Fund. This year we have an opportunity for the first time since the Eisenhower administration to balance the budget without touching the Social Security Trust Fund. Congress needs to stand on principle. We owe it to ourselves and to future generations.

For too many years, these budget negotiations did not create such a fuss. Congress and the President settled their differences the old-fashioned way: They simply spent more money. When spending exceeded revenues, they borrowed money first from the Social Security Trust Fund, then from the public, by issuing government bonds. Forty years later we have run up one heck of a tab. Our Federal debt now stands at over \$5 trillion.

There is hope. The Republican Congress over the past 5 years has been more serious than ever about fiscal discipline. That, coupled with a strong national economy, have put our Federal Government in the black for the first time in a generation and allowed us to retire \$130 billion in Federal debt. The next step is crucial. Congress and the President need to keep their hands out of the Social Security cookie jar. It is too important to our future and to our country.

The Federal Government will raise about \$1.7 trillion this year in non-Social Security revenue. This really ought to be enough to operate our government. Americans are likely to hear some hysterics coming out of our Nation's capital during the next couple of weeks over whether we should spend more money on this or that program. These decisions are important, but my focus will be on the bigger picture: Can we get through this session without robbing Social Security and future generations?

We must end the year by holding the line on spending, force some savings, and stay out of the Social Security Trust Fund. It is a matter of principle worth fighting for.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION AGREEING TO CONFERENCE REQUESTED BY SENATE ON H.R. 2990, QUALITY CARE FOR THE UNINSURED ACT OF 1999

Mr. GOSS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 106-430) on the resolution (H. Res. 348) agreeing to the conference requested by the Senate on the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 2990) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow individuals greater access to health insurance through a health care tax deduction, a long-term care deduction, and other health-related tax

incentives, to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to provide access to and choice in health care through association health plans, to amend the Public Health Service Act to create new pooling opportunities for small employers to obtain greater access to health coverage through HealthMarts; to amend title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act, and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to protect consumers in managed care plans and other health coverage; and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

TRIBUTE TO DR. JOHN LOMBARDI

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to pay tribute to one of the most progressive leaders in the history of Florida, Dr. John Lombardi. He has been a cherished friend to me for over the past 10 years, but he has also been a great friend to the University of Florida and the rest of the State. He is a passionate supporter of public education and he is also a refreshing thinker.

I have been able to count on Dr. Lombardi for so many years as a valuable friend and resource person. Though Dr. Lombardi is leaving his position as President of the University of Florida, he will still be a part of the University's community. We will continue to count on him as a resource.

As a graduate of the University of Florida, I am proud of all the work he has done to make the University of Florida one of the finest public universities in the country, and the best football team. His hard work has helped us reach new levels of academic achievement and we are all proud of his commitment.

I know that the State of Florida is grateful to Dr. Lombardi for being so dedicated in his advocacy for equal rights and a quality education for all of our students. We will miss his leadership, but we will count on his continued support and guidance.

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. BROWN of Florida. I yield to the gentlewoman from Florida.

(Mrs. MEEK of Florida asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding to me.

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Mr. Speaker, Dr. John Lombardi represented and carried through a renaissance in Florida's public education. He chartered a new course for a university which many times before him was in a sleepy existence.

Dr. Lombardi came along; he was a university president who had vision and he had foresight. He was a scholar, respected. He was an academic, yet he was very well-centered in the community, as well as the students. He pulled this university up in research and development. He shaped and defined a new direction for the university.

I had quite a few meetings with President Lombardi. I respected him, as I was a member of the Florida Senate Committee on High Education. I must say to the graduates and the students of the University of Florida, John Lombardi will be missed; and to that entire university system, he brought them into the 21st century kicking and screaming. We are hoping that they will be able to replace him. But I say, no, it is hard to replace a man with the genius and heart of a John Lombardi.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN LOMBARDI

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KUYKENDALL). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. FOWLER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. FOWLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my best wishes and appreciation to an outstanding educator, administrator, and author, Dr. John Lombardi, who has been the president of the University of Florida for more than 9 years now, and in that time he has become much beloved by the student body, faculty, and alumni. This is a man who truly made a difference during his years as president.

It would take too long to list all of his many accomplishments, so I would like to highlight just a few.

As an educator, Dr. Lombardi focused on and achieved higher academic standards, student performance, and graduation rates. As an administrator, he took care of critical details, such as offering better access to computers and augmenting opportunities by increasing the number of combined degree programs available to undergraduates. He was intricately involved in the opening of the Brain Institute, a premier center dedicated to brain and spinal cord research and treatment.

He also excelled in the vitally important role as a fund-raiser, with gifts to the University increasing exponentially during his tenure, including a recently arranged multimillion dollar contribution to the law school.

In addition, Dr. Lombardi was responsible for Florida's acceptance into the Association of American Universities, the prestigious higher education organization comprised of the top 62 public and private institutions in the United States.

More important, though, was Dr. Lombardi the person, a person of great popularity and high regard. Let me just give my colleagues two examples.

Dr. Lombardi was so well-loved by the students that I know that recently the student body voted to ask the

Board of Regents to allow Dr. Lombardi to sign each of their diplomas.

The second anecdote is even more true to his spirit, because at every homecoming Dr. Lombardi marched with the alumni band playing his trademark clarinet and wearing his Gator suspenders.

Today, Dr. Lombardi is leaving his post after a decade of dedicated service. We are fortunate, though, that he will not be going very far and that he plans to return to teaching in the University's history department. On this occasion, I wish Dr. Lombardi and Cathryne all the best and offer great thanks for all his hard work and efforts on behalf of the University of Florida.

THE BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, over the past few weeks, the Republican leadership has taken their year of budgetary gimmicks to a new level, and I want to address that.

Not only have they declared the Census an emergency, something we have been doing through the centuries, not only have they delayed funding for critical medical research at the National Institutes of Health, they tried to create a 13th month in the year and put off payments that lower-income working families receive under the Earned Income Tax Credit.

Not only have they put on the floor an appropriation bill that has abandoned our commitment to reduce class size in our schools, a commitment which we started in the 1999 budget to eliminate immunization for 300 kids and gutted funding to hire teachers for disadvantaged students, not only have they been saying that they are the great protectors of Social Security and Social Security surpluses, while their own Congress Budget Office numbers which they have demanded the House use say the exact opposite, that all would have been bad enough, now they are telling us they are doing the responsible thing.

They have decided to hold up a penny and say, of course we can cut one penny out of every dollar we spend. One percent they say. That is just wasted money. They have abandoned apparently their idea of an \$800 billion tax cut, so-called tax cut.

Why? It did not resonate with the people of America. The reply of the leadership has been, Most people don't pay taxes. That's why people aren't supporting this tax cut.

They have got to be kidding me. Most people in America do pay taxes. Most people in America of adult age work if they are not retired. But let us keep it elementary. Let us keep it very simple. Let us get back to the penny.

We all know that on the face of this penny is the face of Abraham Lincoln,

our great role model. It appears here. As we listen to the rhetoric of the leadership, I would like this House to consider some other faces that are reflected here in this penny, the faces of those who represent the real story of about what this penny means.

Consider the face of Bob Corsa from Clifton, New Jersey. Bob is one of our Nation's veterans. Cutting that penny means that he and his fellow veterans will lose nearly \$200 million in funding for desperately needed medical care. This little penny I hold in my hands that their side has held up night after night, I am holding it up tonight. These are America's heroes. Yet, the Republican leadership calls their medical care wasteful spending. What is one penny? What is one percent?

How about the face of the young 3-year-old in the town I grew up in and still live in, Paterson, New Jersey, who may be one of 5,000 children denied an opportunity to attend Head Start programs. He or she would be so denied because this penny actually means 39 million less dollars for Head Start in their proposal. The other side calls these investments in our future wasteful spending.

We should also remember the face of that college student who will not have the opportunity to receive work study assistance or the family who will be forced to live another decade near a toxic waste site because funding for the cleanup of that site has been slashed.

The other side is saying to those citizens, it is just a penny. It is just wasteful spending we are cutting. Their argument is the easy way out. It is an across-the-board cut that fails those we were sent here to advocate for, the voiceless. And we continue this process.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION CANNOT BE AUDITED

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. METCALF) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. METCALF. Mr. Speaker, today the Department of Education cannot produce the required paperwork to allow their financial books to be audited by the General Accounting Office, the GAO. It is the only department that has not been audited for fiscal year 1998.

The Federal Department of Education is responsible for distributing \$120 billion a year in education spending. Unfortunately, it does not know where all that money is going. It is unacceptable that the Department of Education cannot account for how billions of dollars intended for institutes are being spent.

Yet, rather than looking at these issues, the Department has claimed that, as a result of a less than 1 percent reduction in their budget, they will have to cut funding for education programs because they say there is no waste in their agency.

I am convinced that we can find savings and solutions in the Department of Education and make sure that taxpayer dollars are used as they were intended, to help kids learn, not on bureaucratic mix-up or faulty computer systems. But until the Department of Education is willing to work to find out how they spend all our money, we cannot be sure how much waste is occurring or how much we can more effectively spend taxpayer dollars.

How does anyone explain how a Federal department is unauditible? The only worst case I have ever heard about than this one is in 1995, 1996 the IRS could not account for about \$4 billion. They just could not account for it. They just lost it or misplaced it, I guess.

The Republican Congress wants to take a different approach to education, flexibility in return for strong accountability, the opportunity for parents, teachers, and schools to spend money the way they choose in return for proving that students are learning.

We have asked the GAO to look at some of the Department's accounting practices to make sure that every dollar that should be going to the classroom students is actually getting there to the local districts and classrooms.

I hope that the President and Secretary Riley will work with us to make sure that every Federal education dollar is spent wisely and is used to help children learn, not spent on red tape or bureaucratic mistakes.

The first step in making sure that the Department of Education's books are auditable is that we know where the money is going. I hope Secretary Riley will do everything he can to make sure this happens as soon as possible.

SOCIAL SECURITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, Republicans must take all of us for fools, standing on a soap box trying to convince the American public that they are the saviors of Social Security, when in fact they are like the thief who does not believe he has committed a crime until he gets caught. Then he goes, oh, I committed a crime.

Instead of supporting Social Security, the Republican leadership has a long track record of hostility toward that good program.

In fact, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY), the majority leader, has maligned Social Security as a rotten trick and as a bad retirement for American people. Republicans have tried to eliminate Social Security. They have tried to privatize Social Security, and they are trying to steal from it.

The Republican budget proposals before us this week and for the past few weeks would not add a single day to Social Security's solvency.