

work in Washington and return home to our districts, we know we will have to explain our record here in Congress. It looks as though we will return to our seniors with terrible news. We will tell them that while the House passed a Social Security Lockbox Protection bill on May 26, this bill to permanently stop the raid on Social Security funds has been held hostage in the other body now for a total of 159 days.

We will have to explain to our seniors that some big spenders in Washington want to continue the raid on Social Security funds. We stopped the raid this year, but it was not easy. That is why the lockbox bill is so important. It will make it easier to stop the raid in future years.

I hope President Clinton and all the outside interest groups that say they speak for the interest of American seniors will join me in supporting lockbox protection for the Social Security Trust Fund.

ENFORCE EXISTING GUN LAWS; DO NOT CODDLE GUN VIOLATORS

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Madam Speaker, the White House wants more gun control. Janet Reno wants more gun control. But something just does not add up, Madam Speaker. In the last 5 years, prosecution of gun violators dropped 50 percent. Gun violators serve 25 percent less time in jail, and many pardons were granted for gun violators.

Now think about it. Fewer prosecutions, early releases, pardons, but the White House wants more gun control. Beam me up, Madam Speaker.

America does not need more gun control. America needs the White House to enforce the gun laws we already have. I yield back all the coddling of these gun violators by this administration.

BLACKHAWK HELICOPTERS FINALLY ARRIVE IN COLOMBIA

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

Mr. BALLENGER. Madam Speaker, on Sunday, October 31, 1999, the first three of six of the long awaited Blackhawk helicopters crossed into Colombian airspace, returning from extensive training in the U.S. The choppers were later received by the Director General, the legendary drug fighter Jose Serrano and his anti-drug unit at their air base near Bogota, where they train drug fighting pilots from all across Latin America.

After years of waiting for the Clinton administration to get off the dime and help our beleaguered neighbor just 3 hours from Miami, which produces 80 percent of the world's cocaine and 75 percent of the heroin sold in the United States, the GOP-led anti-drug package from last year finally arrived.

DEMOCRATS WANT TO EXTEND LIFE OF SOCIAL SECURITY TRUST FUND

(Ms. SCHAKOWSKY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, if it were not so serious, it would be funny. The Republican Party, the party that never believed in Social Security, is now posing as its savior. They say Democrats are raiding Social Security, running ads that we are stealing from Social Security. It is a joke.

First, the Republican budget has already spent about \$17 billion in the Social Security surplus. All the experts and accountants agree. They have done what they accuse the Democrats of doing.

Second, this entire debate is a hoax, and they know it. When one puts one's money into a savings account, does one think it just sits there? No. The bank uses one's money and pays one interest. That is not stealing.

It is the same with Social Security. The trust fund is either used for programs or to pay down the debt. Interest is paid back in the fund. The Republicans are desperately trying to cover up the fact that, unlike the Democrats, they have no plan to extend the life of Social Security, and that is the ugly truth.

IF DEMOCRATS WILL HELP, WE CAN SAVE 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. Madam Speaker, it is very interesting to hear all these Democrats who voted no on the appropriation bills because we were not spending enough now saying that we are taking money out of Social Security. Hello. Where does the extra money come from? I will yield the floor to any Democrat who can tell me. If they do not want to get it out of Social Security, where are they getting the money from? Hello. Hello. Silence, what I thought. Just what I thought.

Here is the words of the President's advisor: "The key goal of the Republicans is not to spend Social Security surplus." That is from their own Democrat advisor.

Now, what is our alternative? To get 1 cent out of each dollar. I am a father of four. Do my colleagues know what, we have to cut our budget weekly. We have to come up with more money. Usually when we are looking at a dollar, we have to get a quarter or 35 cents out of it. If I had to cut a penny out, it would be easy. But that is what we are doing.

All the Democrats now are crying and screaming there is no waste in government. What about when the President went to Africa and spent \$42.8 million and took 1,300 of his closest

friends? I think there is a lot of waste in government. If we can get the Democrats to help us, we can save Social Security and quit spending it.

THE DO-HARM CONGRESS

(Ms. NORTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, this will be remembered as less than a do-nothing Congress. It is the do-harm Congress, because we are squandering a unique opportunity to begin fixing Social Security and Medicare.

When my colleagues cannot even get out 13 appropriations, the minimum work that Congress does, they simply ought to retire and go home.

Last week we flattened the smallest appropriation, D.C., by loading the Labor-HHS on its back just to get it to the White House because the majority could not pass it. The unfairness of the maneuver is matched only by the incompetence of the majority it exposes.

Shame on the Congress. But greater shame is the long-term damage the Republicans are doing to Social Security. They are locking it in a box; and inside, they are letting Social Security wither and die.

The Republicans are selling out the largest generation in this century as their old age approaches. May the baby boomers have their revenge before it is too late.

SOCIAL SECURITY PLAN OF THE PRESIDENT

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

Mr. OSE. Madam Speaker, I rise today again to make a point of the Social Security plan that the President has put forward.

We have heard much in terms of the ballyhoo about the President's plan, of which I have a copy and which will be reviewed at the Committee on Ways and Means on Thursday. With great respect to my friends on the other side, I am curious whether or not they support the President's plan to save Social Security. Before they answer, be careful, because I will tell them, having read it and read it carefully, it requires a reduction in the discretionary outlays for appropriations.

This is the leader on their side of the aisle saying we are going to cut appropriations. Given the situation we have today where we cannot even come to even a nominal reduction, how are we going to achieve that?

Madam Speaker, the numbers do not add up with the President's Social Security plan. I urge each of my colleagues to read it very carefully.

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If we support it, we are supporting a reduction in discretionary appropriations of significant nature. Read it

carefully. The President's plan does not add up.

SOCIAL SECURITY

(Ms. BALDWIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, seniors everywhere are concerned about the future of Social Security, not out of selfishness, they know it will be there for them, but out of concern for future generations.

Social Security is not just a commitment we made to our seniors, it is a commitment we made to families. It allowed so many seniors to remain financially independent long after retirement, ensuring that they would not become a financial strain for their children.

We want future generations to have every opportunity. The best education, quality health care and a good job, and we want them to know that programs like Social Security will be there when they retire.

And yet after all the rhetoric we have heard about protecting Social Security, the Republican Congress has failed to enact legislation to extend Social Security by even one day. I know that there are many grandmothers like my own who are looking to us right now. Let us work together to make it happen.

BOTH PARTIES WANT TO HOLD SOCIAL SECURITY SACROSANCT

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

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, it is truly heartening to hear the discussion today about Social Security; both sides talking about Social Security, both sides talking about saving Social Security, both sides extolling the virtues of holding Social Security sacrosanct. Madam Speaker, that is the first time those words have been heard for the last 40-some years.

When the Democrats had control of this place, all that time they spent every single dime of Social Security on programs and today they are here arguing about who is saving more. Well, I do not care which one is right, the fact is we have the argument now on our terms, in our court. The debate is now on our side.

How much and who is going to do more to save the Social Security fund is great. It bodes well for America. Because over the next 10 years it will reduce the rate of growth of government by over \$2 trillion, if we can keep the debate focused there.

Let us not get away from the debate. Remember, saving Social Security is not just good for Social Security, it is good for America.

REPUBLICAN BUDGET BILL IS OUT OF TOUCH WITH NEEDS OF AMERICANS

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

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Madam Speaker, as we consider the Republican budget bill, foremost in our mind should be the realization that this bill is out of touch with the needs of millions of Americans. This bill provides nothing for Social Security. This bill provides nothing for Medicare. This bill ostensibly can hurt every single family in our Nation.

Social Security has conveyed a message of hope and a measure of financial security for all Americans. It represents the only income for millions of elderly Americans all across the Nation, and yet this bill does not extend the life of Social Security by one single day.

The bill fails to provide one penny for a Medicare prescription drug benefit. As we stand at the portal of the millennium, it is not acceptable that our elderly should be forced to choose between food and medicine.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to keep Social Security sound, and I urge them to keep Medicare sound and address the needs of all Americans.

SAVING SOCIAL SECURITY IS ONE OF REPUBLICANS' FOUR-POINT PRIORITIES

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

Mr. DREIER. Madam Speaker, since 1937, American workers have been forced, through no choice of their own, to pay into the Social Security Trust Fund. Today, 75 percent of the American people pay more in payroll taxes than they do in Federal income taxes.

In light of that, it seems to me that there is a very important obligation that needs to be met, and that obligation is one that the Speaker of the House, when he stood here on the opening day of the 106th Congress, made very clear. He said that we, in fact, were going to save Social Security and Medicare, and that is one of the four-point priorities that we put forth.

Now, we very much want to do that, and I believe, if one looks at the appropriations bills that we have been able to pass in this House, including the most recent one which completed our work, we were able to do it for the first time since 1967 without dipping into the anticipated surplus for Social Security.

That is something that underscores our very strong commitment to make sure that the United States Government stands behind that obligation which it forces the American people to pay into. We are doing the right thing in pursuing that.

REPUBLICAN BUDGET PLAN SHOULD BE RENAMED PORK PROTECTION ACT OF 1999

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

Mr. EDWARDS. Madam Speaker, Al Capone can claim he is a crime fighter, but it does not make it so. Republicans can claim they are really trying to protect Social Security, but it does not make it so.

Here we are the second day of the second month of the new fiscal year, and the majority party, months late, has just passed its final appropriations bill, albeit with no effort to be bipartisan.

There are just a few problems with this gimmickry Republican budget plan. First, the plan does not add one year, not one month, not one week, not one day, not even one hour to the Social Security or the Medicare trust funds.

Second problem with their plan. It hurts, in some ways, every American family. Head Start, cut; college loans, cuts; defense readiness, cut below the President's request. Even worse, the Republican budget has rules crafted in a way that actually cuts bone marrow in order to protect pork. Perhaps the Republican budget plan should be renamed the 1999 Pork Protection Act.

Third problem they have is their numbers do not add up. Their plan shows more gimmickry than a French chef. We should reject their plan.

REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP MUST COME CLEAN ON SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Madam Speaker, Halloween is over, let us stop playing those tricks and let us give the Americans the treat that they deserve, the truth. The truth is that the Republicans have exceeded their own caps by \$31 billion, and we all recognize and we all know that.

We also recognize that we have dipped into \$17 billion into Social Security already. Apparently, the approach is if they tell a lie often enough, people will believe them. Well, this data did not come from the administration, this data did not come from the Democrat Party, this data came from the Republican accountants at the CBO; \$17 billion into Social Security already.

So what is wrong with this picture? We have a golden opportunity to work in a collective manner. And the beauty of it is that we are all talking about Social Security, so, apparently, we have some interest in that area.

The leadership must come clean though and tell the truth. There are many worthy programs that we have, and we have had some major national