

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 gimmick 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

disasters. We have the farm crisis, and there are some other needs to look at realistically in the cap, but let us tell the truth. Halloween is over.

REPUBLICANS BOAST SORRY RECORD OF NONACHIEVEMENT

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

Mr. ALLEN. Madam Speaker, when the Speaker of this House was sworn in, he promised to get the appropriations bills done on time. Well, we are into November, the second month of the new fiscal year, and it is not done. The Republican leadership cannot do the regular business of this House on time.

But the greater tragedy is our failure to make progress on substantive challenges. Democrats and some dedicated Republicans worked to pass campaign finance reform, but Republicans killed it in the other body.

Democrats tried to make our streets and our schools safer for children by passing modest gun safety provisions; Republicans killed it.

Democrats tried to make health care safer for patients by passing a Patients' Bill of Rights; Republicans killed it.

Democrats tried to make this world safer by passing the comprehensive test ban treaty; Republicans killed it.

Democrats tried to help our seniors pay for their prescription drugs, and Republicans killed it.

With this sorry record of nonachievement, it is time to go home and work harder next year to make progress on the issues that matter to America's families.

FOCUS ON SAVING SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. PHELPS. Madam Speaker, in an era of unprecedented economic growth and prosperity, we have a responsibility to implement policy that ensures continued growth for all sectors of our society. That requires investing in the future, creating a better America for our children, a future in which working families can afford to send their children to college and in which all Americans can count on the continued integrity of Social Security.

As I talk with my constituents in Southern Illinois, I am encouraged that people are actively discussing the many ways to address the future of Social Security. I believe we need to start by paying down the national debt. My constituents realize we must be fiscally responsible. Reducing the national debt is the best tax cut we can provide to working men and women.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to focus on saving Social Secu-

rity, reducing the national debt, balancing the budget and reforming Medicare. We owe them this.

CENSORSHIP AND THREATS ISSUED BY CONGRESSIONAL STAFFERS

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

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, I have some shocking news this morning. If my colleagues will recall, last Thursday, I think in a moment of spectacular madness, the majority of this House passed a bill that cut the funding for research to the National Institutes of Health until the last 2 days of the fiscal year next year.

The troubling news I have this morning is that it has come to our attention that a brazen act by some staffers in Congress has taken place. Majority staffers in the other body have warned the National Institutes of Health researchers and the research advocates that if they complain about the delays proposed for the research, their own funding is going to be jeopardized.

This is a scandal of major proportions; taking away the first amendment rights and the rights of people to try to address this body.

Now, just yesterday it was announced by researchers at the University of Rochester, New York, in my district, that they have discovered that genetic material from the HIV virus can kill cancer tumors. They tell me that this and other NIH-funded research is what is going to be hampered in Rochester if their funding is delayed.

The chairman of the Labor-HHS subcommittee yesterday asked the President to veto the bill because he is stunned too by its irresponsibility.

REPUBLICAN BUDGET BILL DOES NOTHING FOR SOCIAL SECURITY OR MEDICARE AND HURTS EVERY FAMILY

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

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, the Republican leadership's budget bill does not extend the life of Social Security even by one single day, it fails to provide one penny for Medicare prescription drug benefits, and, frankly, the only thing it does do is to hurt American families, every American family, in a very, very real way.

As one of my colleagues earlier said, if it were not so tragic it would be laughable to hear the Republican leadership on the other side of the aisle talk about their allegiance and their heartfelt sympathy about Social Security and their desire to want to save Social Security. However, their majority leader, in 1984, called Social Security "a bad retirement, a rotten trick on the American people," and I quote,

"I think we are going to have to bite the bullet on Social Security and phase it out over a period of time."

He said that in 1984. Now let us fast-forward to 1994. On a C-SPAN call-in show he was asked, "Are you going to take the pledge? Are you going to promise not to cut people's Social Security to meet your promises? No, I am not going to make such a promise. I would never have created Social Security."

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair announces that she will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record votes on postponed questions will be taken after debate has concluded on all motions to suspend the rules, but not before 4 p.m. today.

□ 1030

ENCOURAGING EDUCATION OFFICIALS TO PROMOTE FINANCIAL LITERACY TRAINING

Mr. PETRI. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 213) encouraging the Secretary of Education to promote, and State and local educational agencies to incorporate in their education programs, financial literacy training.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 213

Whereas in order to succeed in our dynamic American economy, young people must obtain the skills, knowledge, and experience necessary to manage their personal finances and obtain general financial literacy;

Whereas all young adults should have the educational tools necessary to make informed financial decisions;

Whereas despite the critical importance of financial literacy to young people, the average student who graduates from high school lacks basic skills in the management of personal financial affairs;

Whereas a nationwide survey conducted in 1997 by the JumpStart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy examined the financial knowledge of 1,509 12th graders;

Whereas on average, survey respondents answered only 57 percent of the questions correctly, and only 5 percent of the respondents received a 'C' grade or better;

Whereas an evaluation by the National Endowment for Financial Education High School Financial Planning Program undertaken jointly with the United States Department of Agriculture Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service demonstrates that as little as 10 hours of classroom instruction can impart substantial knowledge and affect significant change in how teens handle their money;

Whereas State educational leaders have recognized the importance of providing a basic financial education to students in grades kindergarten through 12 by integrating financial education into State educational standards, but by 1999 only 14 States