

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded that they are to refrain from urging action by the other body.

PARENTS AND TEACHERS, NOT WASHINGTON BUREAUCRATS, KNOW WHAT IS BEST FOR OUR CHILDREN

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, in 1992, then Governor Bill Clinton, in his campaign treatise, putting people first, said that we need to, and I quote, "grant expanded decision-making powers at the school level, empowering principals, teachers and parents with increased flexibility in educating our children." That was back in 1992.

In 1999, President Clinton has drastically changed his tune. When asked just last week about State governors wanting more freedom from Washington education bureaucrats, he expressed irritation. I will again quote: "because it is not their money," he said. If they don't want the money, they don't have to take it.

With that response, President Clinton summed up the utter arrogance of Washington's liberal elite who really do believe that big government knows what is best for the hard-working Americans who earn those tax dollars.

Mr. Speaker, it is their money. Let us send it back to those who earned it and know best how to spend it.

WASTING AMERICA'S TAX DOLLARS IN RUSSIA

(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, since 1992, Uncle Sam has given Russia billions of dollars to dismantle their weapons of mass destruction. Now, who is kidding whom? Instead of dismantling, reports say Russia has built missiles, submarines, and more nuclear warheads. If that is not enough to gargle with vodka, the report said that Russia just bought 11 strategic bombers and 500 additional cruise missiles. To boot, they say what they did not spend, those Communists stole and pocketed for themselves.

Unbelievable. Whatever happened to President Reagan's policy: Trust, but verify. It has turned into turn the other cheeks.

Beam me up, Mr. Speaker. Boris might have fallen, but he keeps getting up with our cash.

I yield back the nuclear waste of our tax dollars spent in Russia.

STOP BALANCING THE BUDGET ON THE BACKS OF OUR SENIOR CITIZENS

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, although the Democrats claim they are the stand-alone founders and saviors of Social Security and Medicare, their actions of late have proven just the opposite.

Our Vice President, Mr. GORE, and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT), our minority leader, have both claimed that no Republicans voted for the establishment of Social Security. False.

Here are the facts. When the House passed the 1935 Social Security Act on April 19, 1935, 79 percent of the 97 Republicans voted for it: "Aye." When the Senate acted on June 19, 1935, 75 percent of the 20 Republicans voted "aye."

Now, claims like those we are hearing suggesting that Democrats have created everything from Social Security to the Internet are quite amusing. Yet, the debate over the future of our most important social program is no laughing matter. Today's debate should really be about whether or not we are now keeping the Social Security Trust Fund safe from a Democratic raid to pay for new programs, something they have done for over 30 years.

We must stop balancing the budgets on the back of our senior citizens.

DO-LITTLE CONGRESS

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

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, here we are in mid-November and quite frankly, the Republican-led Congress has done very little. The appropriation bills languish and the needs of the American people are not being met. Now we seem to be arguing over four-tenths of 1 percent of a cut.

Instead, the American people asked for things that cost very little and would improve their lives, like a Patients' Bill of Rights so patients and doctors can make their medical decisions; like an increase in minimum wage so everyone can enjoy the strong economy; like 100,000 more teachers so that we can have smaller classes. And, Mr. Speaker, why can we not provide prescription drug coverage for all of our seniors.

Mr. Speaker, let us work for the American people. Unfortunately, under the Republican-led Congress, it is always the same old song. Tax breaks for the rich and a tax on government.

America wants a Congress that works for them like Democrats are fighting for, for 100,000 teachers, 50,000 new police officers, a real Patients' Bill of Rights, protecting our environment

and providing prescription drug coverage for all seniors, all paid for, all paid for without busting the budget or raiding Social Security.

RHETORIC AND WASTE IN WASHINGTON

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

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. President, come home and solve this final budget problem that we have here. We may again have an across-the-board reduction in spending to finally find the offsets to cover the additional spending the President wants to put forth. We need him to return from all of these foreign affairs trips he is taking.

It is too bad I only have 1 minute here, because I could go on for hours about the waste, fraud, and abuse in the Federal Government. He claims we cannot reduce by one penny out of \$1 waste, fraud and abuse.

Here is an example. Mr. Speaker, \$14.2 billion that was for low-income tenants for privately owned apartments at the Department of Housing and Urban Development was kept in check and used in other Federal programs. In fact, \$11 billion was used for additional spending in other programs that we did not even know where it went. This kind of management is simply outrageous.

Mr. President, we need you to come home. We can find one penny's worth much waste fraud and abuse in every dollar we spend around here in Washington.

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WALKING PAST THE GRAVEYARD OF GOOD LEGISLATION

(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, today the Republicans and the Republican leadership are moving toward the last days of the session. They are on their way out of town. Unfortunately, on their way out of town they are going to have to walk past the graveyard of good legislation. Therein lies prescription drug coverage for seniors, much-needed, much-worked on, but killed by the Republicans. In the graveyard of good legislation also lies HMO reform. Our desire on the Democratic side to pass a real Patients' Bill of Rights which would give citizens the right to sue, killed by the Republicans.

They have to walk past the graveyard that contains common sense gun legislation which they failed to pass so

that we could control the gun show loophole and bring sanity to the mass hysteria that is going on in terms of gun violence. Finally, they have to walk past the graveyard of good legislation wherein lies the minimum wage bill.

Mr. Speaker, we simply wanted to give working Americans another dollar in earnings over 2 years, a dollar over 2 years, killed by the Republicans.

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So on their way out of town as they walk past the graveyard, they might remember that the ghosts may rise up to haunt them.

REPUBLICANS STAY ON THE JOB, WHILE DEMOCRATS RAISE FUNDS

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, let me yield the floor to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. Wynn) who spoke before me and ask if he can tell me where his Majority Leader was yesterday when we were trying to save Social Security and put local flexibility in education and try to pass a pay raise for our soldiers.

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. KINGSTON. I yield to the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, I am sure he was hard at work, our leader.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, re-claiming my time, the gentleman's leader was actually fund raising. He was not on the floor of the House. His leader was fund raising. There we have it.

Mr. Speaker, we have got a situation where the Democrats are claiming we are doing nothing, but their leader was fund raising yesterday while we were trying to save Social Security, while we were trying to put educational flexibility in, while we were trying to raise the pay raise for our soldiers, and while we were trying to find one small, actually now it is a half-cent in the dollar to cut the bureaucracy to preserve and protect Social Security. The Democrat leader was home fund raising.

Well, I hope he made a lot of money, and I hope it was successful. But the Republicans were here. We showed up for work. We are paid \$134,000 a year. We should be here working. We should not be out fund raising on taxpayers' time and money. Come help and protect Social Security.

HURRICANE LENNY

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

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, as we meet this morning, my district, the U.S. Virgin Islands, is awaiting a direct

hit in the unexpected and unpredictable Hurricane Lenny, now a category 4 storm with 135 mile per hour winds.

The major storm winds will first hit St. Croix at around 12 p.m. Atlantic Standard Time, and is expected to have a direct impact on the Hess Oil refinery, the largest in this hemisphere which is based on St. Croix. It has closed and is taking the necessary precautions to prevent major damages, as is the nearby alumina plant.

While the Virgin Islands has been declared one of the most prepared districts under FEMA's project Impact preparedness program, we are still asking for our colleagues' prayers at this time, especially the neighborhood surrounding these two plants.

Mr. Speaker, too often, the fate of the U.S. Virgin Islands are overshadowed during hurricane coverage, but we have been affected to some measure by most major storms in recent years. We ask everyone to keep us in their thoughts and prayers during this time, and we ask in advance for support for our recovery and for our ongoing efforts to address the ongoing financial crisis which makes this hurricane an even more serious threat to us.

THE KIND OF RELIEF AMERICA NEEDS

(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, call me a skinflint, but I think a million dollars is a little too much to spend on building an outhouse. But, apparently, the National Park Service disagrees, because that is just how much it spent to build an outhouse at Glacier National Park in Montana.

That is \$1 million of the taxpayers' hard-earned dollars.

To get to this outhouse, should one need such relief, one need only hike 6½ miles from the nearest road and climb 7,000 feet. It took more than 800 helicopter drops and hundreds of horse trips to get the construction materials to the site. That is a lot of hassle; but, hey, it does have a complete septic system.

Mr. Speaker, this is exactly the kind of waste that needs to be trimmed out of the Federal budget and is an example of how easy it will be for agencies to cut a penny from every dollar. That is all it will take to stop the 30-year raid on Social Security.

Mr. Speaker, now that is the kind of relief America needs.

CONGRESS STILL HAS UNADDRESSED ISSUES TO CONFRONT

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, the Republican leadership is packing its bags.

It is heading for the exits without addressing the most critical needs of American families. This summer, they tried to spend a historic surplus on an irresponsible tax plan that would have benefited only the wealthy. Now they are planning to leave town without taking meaningful steps to make our communities safer and our families stronger.

The list of items killed by the Republican leadership is long. The Patients' Bill of Rights, campaign finance reform, and Medicare prescription drug benefits, extending the life of Medicare and Social Security, sensible gun safety, minimum wage.

Time and again, the Republican leadership has joined with special interests to bury important legislation that, in fact, would have improved the lot of American families. One of the most critical items to fall by the wayside has been sensible gun safety legislation. Common sense should be applied when it comes to the safety of our schools, our neighborhoods, office buildings, and places of worship.

Mr. Speaker, this Congress should not adjourn without closing the loopholes that lets guns fall into the wrong hands. It is time for responsible action.

ACROSS-THE-BOARD CUT IS A REASONABLE APPROACH TO FEDERAL BUDGET

(Mr. SMITH of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks and include therein extraneous material.)

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, just as a follow-up to the previous speaker, I wish everybody, Mr. Speaker, could read the editorial in the Wall Street Journal today. It conveyed the message that part of the reason this economy is doing so well is Congress is staying out of its way. And yet some people say, let us pass more legislation. Let us do more things, increase taxes, make it tougher for business to succeed and end up increasing the tax revenues that come to this government.

We have been working at this budget for the last 9 months. Now we are saying after all of the gives and takes, the compromising here is our best effort level of spending prorated among different programs. Now we have calculated that in order to save the Social Security surplus, we need to cut about 1 cent out of every dollar that is now proposed to be spent across the board for discretionary programs. Not leaving it up to the President to cut Republican programs, not leaving it up to the Republicans to cut Democrat programs.

Mr. Speaker, an across-the-board cut is reasonable. Let us do it and get on with this budget and let us have a new beginning to save Social Security.