

LET US FULLY FUND THE BUDGET TO PROVIDE FOR VETERANS' NEEDS

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

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, as the sound of war today reverberates throughout this Chamber, let us take this opportunity to make sure that we do not forget about the veterans of past wars, the men and women who have put their lives on the line defending this country.

Frankly, the President's budget is grossly inadequate in terms of protecting veterans' needs, as is the Republican budget. In the State of Vermont, the Veterans Administration hospital at White River Junction is under significant financial pressure, and that is true at VA hospitals all over this country.

Mr. Speaker, at a time when some are proposing huge tax breaks for some of the richest people in this country, let us not forget the veterans.

Let us, in this budget process, go well beyond the President's budget for veterans, well beyond the Republicans' budget for veterans, and finally provide the true funding that the Veterans Administration needs to protect those people who put their lives on the line defending this country.

INTRODUCTION OF HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 30, TO KEEP EXECUTIVE AUTHORITY WITHIN THE BOUNDS OF THE CONSTITUTION

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

Mr. METCALF. Mr. Speaker, many Members of Congress are deeply concerned about the use of executive orders. The public is legitimately concerned also. The courts have improperly given executive orders the force and effect of law. We must get executive orders back into harmony with the Constitution.

I have introduced House Concurrent Resolution 30, with quite a few sponsors. The second sponsor is the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HENRY HYDE). That will accomplish this.

It states that "Any executive order that infringes on the powers and duties of Congress is advisory only, and has no force or effect." We must pass House Concurrent Resolution 30, and make certain that executive authority is kept clearly within the bounds of the Constitution.

THE BUDGET, MEDICARE, AND SOCIAL SECURITY

(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, I am really here to talk today about the budget, Medicare, and social security. We have the opportunity to show the American people that we can work together and agree on a budget resolution. While it is important that we continue the effort to balance the budget, we need to ensure that programs that benefit the American people the most are protected and strengthened.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle keep talking about tax cuts, and all of us like to give tax cuts, but I do not want to do it at the expense of social security, Medicare, or the educational opportunities for our children.

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We cannot risk these valuable programs simply to give tax cuts. It is critical to have a budget that ensures national projects like the expansion of the Port of Houston in my district. The Port of Houston is important, not only to our Nation, but also locally because dredging the channel ensures safety for many of our residents.

It is our responsibility to take the necessary steps to have a budget that saves and protects Medicare, Social Security, education and projects like the Port of Houston.

SOCIAL SECURITY TRUST FUND ROBBERY

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

Mr. COOKSEY. Mr. Speaker, Lenox Lewis may have been robbed in his recent boxing match, but his experience is nothing compared to the robbery of the Social Security Trust Fund over the past 40 years. It is happening in broad daylight, and the robbers have nowhere to hide. It is time to stop the robbery.

The Republican budget puts the Social Security Trust Fund in a safe deposit box so that the plundering of the Trust Fund will stop. The President will have a hard time finding money to pay for the 85 new spending initiatives in his budget proposal. That is 85 new ways to make a mockery of the Social Security Trust Fund the way the President has proposed.

The Republican budget, on the other hand, reserves 100 percent of the retirement surplus for Social Security and Medicare. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues have heard that right. The Republican budget reserves 100 percent of the retirement surplus for Social Security and Medicare. In fact, our budget puts aside more money for Social Security and Medicare than does the President's budget.

We cannot do anything about the Lenox Lewis rip-off, but we can put a stop to the robbery of the Social Security Trust Fund that has been going on for too long.

THE BUDGET

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

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, testimony by the Congressional Budget Office Director confirms that President Clinton's budget blows the roof off the bipartisan spending caps of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997. He stated that the President's budget will exceed those caps by \$30 billion in the next fiscal year alone.

The balanced budget agreement is under 2 years old, and the President simply cannot stop himself from spending more of one's money.

We already know that the Clinton budget included \$108 billion in new taxes and fees and not a dime of broad-based tax relief. On the spending side, we knew that the President proposed more than \$200 billion in new domestic spending over the next 5 years, including nearly 40 new mandatory programs and almost 80 new discretionary programs.

Worse yet, first he said all of the surplus should go to Social Security. Then he said 62 percent of the surplus should be saved for Social Security. Now it is clear that the President's proposal uses even the off-budget Social Security surpluses for new domestic spending programs.

Mr. Speaker, we will pass a budget that provides more freedom to American families and, more importantly, will tell the truth to the American people about what is in it.

DEMOCRATIC AND REPUBLICAN BUDGET DIFFERENCES

(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 budget is *deja vu* all over again. Just like 4 years ago, the Republican leadership has concocted a budget that flies in the face of mainstream America.

Their budget fails to extend the life of Medicare by even one day. Instead of strengthening this pillar of retirement security, the Republican budget lets Medicare spend itself into oblivion and collapse in the year 2008. It does not use one penny of the surplus to strengthen Medicare. But while Medicare burns, the Republican budget uses the surplus to give nearly \$1 trillion in tax breaks for the wealthy. This is irresponsible, and it is wrong.

The Democratic budget reflects the priorities of the American people. First and foremost, it takes the high road and strengthens Medicare until 2018. It provides tax relief to working middle class families that need it most. Unlike the Republican plan, which fails to give 48 million families any tax relief at all, the Democratic budget plan delivers tax relief and strengthens Medicare.

The American people deserve a budget that is responsible, that is fair. They

do not need a double dose of *deja vu*. Let us strengthen Medicare, and let us give middle class families a tax cut.

REPUBLICAN AND DEMOCRATIC BUDGET DIFFERENCES

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, we have had a lot of talk today about the President's budget. I have got to say it has got more phony numbers than their census sampling scheme, more misery than the Chinese money laundering scandal.

Here is the basic difference between the Republican budget and the Democrat budget. Republican budget saves more money for Social Security. I think even a Democrat would admit that 100 percent is more than 62 percent.

We want to preserve 100 percent of Social Security. Democrats want to preserve 62 percent. On Medicare, we want to protect Medicare. The President's budget cuts \$9 billion from Medicare.

Here is what I will say to any of my Democrat colleagues or anybody who is interested. I will send my colleagues the budget. I am going straight off the fact sheet here. I will send the budget to anybody who wants to debate that. It is probably not right to just accuse it without backing it up. I will back it up.

Our budget enforces the balanced budget agreement which we had signed with the President 2 years ago. The President's budget reneges on a promise, well nothing unusual about that for this administration, but \$30 billion over that.

Then, finally, we have a middle class tax cut, whereas the President calls for a tax increase. Three fundamental differences; two approaches to government.

INTERNET GUN TRAFFICKING ACT

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

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, right now gun sales take place on the Internet with no checks and balances. An illegal gun dealer can simply have his name, address, and telephone number listed on a web site, making himself available for contact by an unlicensed gun purchaser. These transactions can be executed without being subjected to any Federal regulations. Most of these sales go on unbeknownst to Federal authorities.

We have to close this gun trafficking loophole on the Internet today; and today, that is precisely what I am doing. I am introducing the Gun Trafficking Act of 1999. This legislation will place a licensed manufacturer or dealer between the seller and buyer.

As a middle man, this licensed dealer will facilitate the gun sale and will

ship the gun purchases to a licensed dealer in the buyer's State. No longer will unlicensed dealers and buyers have a free reign and easy access on the Internet.

I ask each Member of Congress to plug this deadly loophole. Vote for this important piece of legislation.

MORE GOVERNMENT SPENDING OR RESPONSIBLE APPROACH TO SO- CIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE CRISES

(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, remember in 1996 when the President stood right up there and he said the era of big government is over? Remember that? Well, he proposed this year 80 new spending programs.

There are a number of folks, Democrats on this side of the aisle, who would like to take the Social Security money and use it to increase government spending, make the government bigger and more intrusive more than ever; and that is why Republicans are taking 100 percent of the retirement surplus and putting it into a safe deposit box for Social Security and Medicare.

If my colleagues look at this chart, again, the President's budget cuts \$9 billion from Medicare. It busts the budget caps by \$30 billion and raises taxes by \$172 billion.

Republicans are trying to take 100 percent of the retirement surplus and put it into a safe deposit box for Medicare and Social Security. The choice is clear. More Washington spending or a responsible approach to the coming Social Security and Medicare crisis.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1141, 1999 EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 125 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 125

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1141) making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. Points of order against consideration of the bill for failure to comply with clause 4(c) of rule XIII or section 302 or 306 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. After general debate the bill shall be considered

for amendment under the five-minute rule. Points of order against provisions in the bill for failure to comply with clause 2 of rule XXI are waived. The amendment printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against the amendment printed in the report are waived. During consideration of the bill for amendment, the chairman of the Committee of the Whole may accord priority in recognition on the basis of whether the Member offering an amendment has caused it to be printed in the portion of the Congressional Record designated for that purpose in clause 8 of rule XVIII. Amendments so printed shall be considered as read. The chairman of the Committee of the Whole may: (1) postpone until a time during further consideration in the Committee of the Whole a request for a recorded vote on any amendment; and (2) reduce to five minutes the minimum time for electronic voting on any postponed question that follows another electronic vote without intervening business, provided that the minimum time for electronic voting on the first in any series of questions shall be 15 minutes. During consideration of the bill, points of order against amendments for failure to comply with clause 2(e) of rule XXI or section 302(c) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. NETHERCUTT). The gentleman from Florida (Mr. GOSS) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, for purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes of debate to the distinguished gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HALL), my friend and colleague, pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 125 is an open rule providing for the consideration of H.R. 1141, a bill making emergency supplemental appropriations for fiscal year 1999.

As we just heard from the Clerk, the rule description sounds technically complicated, but Members should keep in mind that this is an open rule which includes the waivers necessary to bring this matter to the attention of the House today and which allows the House to address the major issue of contention, offsets, in full and fair debate.

As to the specifics, the rule waives clause 4(c) of rule XIII, which requires the 3-day availability of printed hearings on a general appropriations bill and sections 302 and 306 of the Congressional Budget Act against consideration of the bill.

The waiver relating to section 302 of the Budget Act, which prohibits consideration of the committee's legislation providing new budget authority