

hero. As mind-altering drugs rip through America's homes and neighborhoods, leaving ruined lives in their wake, a group of brave men and women have stepped forward to fight this scourge. These men and women are our law enforcement professionals.

Captain Robbie Bishop of the Villa Rica Police Department was one such man. Every day he risked his life to keep drugs out of our schools and neighborhoods. He was willing to pay the ultimate price for his battle, as he did so on January 20 of this year when he was shot to death in his patrol car by a suspected drug trafficker who fled to Canada and has just been returned to America.

While nothing can ease the pain Captain Bishop's family, his department, and community feel at losing him, we can take some comfort in the knowledge that his sacrifice saved the lives of so many others.

During the past 7 years alone, Robbie Bishop directly assisted in the seizure of over 10,000 pounds of narcotics and more than \$8 million from drug traffickers. These are drugs and resources that would have threatened and taken other lives if brave men and women like Captain Bishop had not stood in the way.

I commend the dedication and sacrifice of Captain Robbie Bishop of the Villa Rica Police Department, and I hope that his life and legacy will serve as an incentive for all of us to continue the war against mind-altering drugs.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

(Mrs. CAPPS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, it is time to get serious about reforming our broken campaign finance system, and it truly is broken.

Soft money from the wealthiest corporations and from the wealthiest individuals is flooding into Federal elections at an alarming rate. Last year's special election in my district saw an explosion of sham issue ads which are clearly designed to sway voters with no regard for our election laws.

Our democratic system is being undermined by these abuses. We need to act now before the American people lose all faith in the political process.

Today I joined my colleagues in signing the discharge petition to bring the Shays-Meehan campaign finance reform bill to the floor for a fair and open debate. The American people have spoken. The time for reform is now.

SUPPORT THE BUDGET RESOLUTION

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

Mr. HILL of Montana. Mr. Speaker, Republicans who honored their campaign promise by trying to lower taxes

have been subject to constant attacks that any tax cuts would be a raid on Social Security. How is it that tax cuts can be a raid on Social Security, but billions of dollars of new spending are not?

The truth is that Democrats had 40 years to do something about Social Security, and they did not put one dime aside to save it from Social Security, not one dime, Mr. Speaker.

Republicans on the other hand have proposed to put aside \$1.4 trillion of the budget surplus to save Social Security. The choice is \$1.4 trillion or zero. Which side, America, do you trust on this issue?

Those who were in power for 40 years did nothing, who put aside nothing, are attacking the Republicans. We have to admire their audacity, Mr. Speaker, but you have to be ashamed of their demagoguery.

The same party that raided Social Security for 40 years is now attacking Republicans for stepping up to the plate and putting aside over a trillion dollars to shore up a system that is so important and will soon be bankrupt.

I ask my colleagues to reject the demagoguery. Be responsible and support this budget.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM DISCHARGE PETITION

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

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of substantive campaign finance reform. This Congress has talked a lot about it, but we have not done anything about it. It is a shame that it is going to take a discharge petition to even bring it before the floor. I encourage everyone to sign this discharge petition.

If we are serious about passing real campaign finance reform legislation this year, not later, everyone knows what we need to do. We need to ban soft money. We need to limit the wealthy from being able to buy elections rather than earning elections. We need to crack down on the issue of issue ads as campaign ads, and we need to improve disclosure and enforcement of the Federal Election Commission.

We just need to have the courage to do what must be done. Sign the discharge petition. Let us pass real campaign finance reform legislation this year. Let us base it in the future on the richness of message, not the richness of pocketbook. We have got to do this for the sake of the people and for the American people moving into the 21st century.

WHAT SURPLUS?

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

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, when I got back to my district, I asked people

about what they think should be done with the budget surplus. On more than one occasion, I am asked in return, "what surplus?"

There are a lot of people out there who are on to the games we play in this town. They ask, how could there be a budget surplus if the national debt went up last year and will go up again this year? What kind of surplus is that?

In fact, they are right. The Federal budget is only in surplus if we count the temporary surplus in the Social Security Trust Fund. The ironic thing is that the government would never let a business keep its books that way. But that is the way it does with our seniors' retirement money. It uses it to mask the true size of the deficit.

Republicans want to put an end to that. Many Democrats are not very happy about that prospect. Ending this practice would make it a lot harder to create new spending programs and expand the size of government. It sounds like another good reason why we should do it, does it not?

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

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

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, last year, the Republican leadership tried to thwart action on campaign finance reform. This year they are trying it once again. Why? Because they know it will pass the House on a bipartisan vote, because they fear public pressure will grow in the Senate.

The Republican leadership is saying again our private campaign money is our primary concern; the public interest be damned. Soft money is hardening the arteries of our democracy. So-called issue ads are snuffing out discourse on public issues.

Truly, it is time to act. That is why I am now going over to sign the discharge petition, and so many of my colleagues have already done so.

EXCITEMENT FOR THE BUDGET RESOLUTION

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

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, very quickly, it is exciting, the budget resolution. It came back from the Senate with a couple changes: some increased money for child care, some lockbox language that helps assure that we do what we say we are going to do, a reserve fund that could be used for prescription drugs, a new criteria for emergency spending.

This is a historic budget. For the first time in 40 years, we are not going to spend the Social Security surplus money, not going to even spend any of it for tax cuts in the next year.

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The challenge is what do we do with the war in Serbia? Is that going to

come out of the Social Security Trust Fund?

Mr. Speaker, a historic budget. It should be supported from both sides.

SIGN DISCHARGE PETITION TO DEBATE CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

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

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, 9 out of 10 Americans, 9 out of 10 Americans support campaign finance reform. Today, I rise in support of meaningful campaign finance reform which our political system needs and our constituents demand.

I salute the Blue Dogs for once again filing a discharge petition to try to overcome the resistance of the Republican leadership and force a reform bill onto the House floor.

The simple fact is the cost of running for Federal office today is so great that candidates are forced to devote way too much of their time fund-raising rather than dealing with issues of importance to their constituents.

Mr. Speaker, last year 196 Members signed a discharge petition that led to bringing the Shays-Meehan bipartisan campaign finance bill to the House floor. Without that petition process, the House Republican leadership would never have let that debate occur.

Today, I urge all Members, from both sides, to join me in signing this petition so that a real debate can finally take place on this floor.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 68, CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2000

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 137 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 137

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider a conference report to accompany the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 68) establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2000 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for each of the fiscal years 2001 through 2009. All points of order against the conference report and against its consideration are waived. The conference report shall be considered as read. The conference report shall be debatable for one hour equally divided and controlled by chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Budget.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GIBBONS). The gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LINDER) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, for purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER), pending which I yield myself such time as I

may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purposes of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 137 is a conventional rule providing for consideration of the conference report for H. Con. Res. 68, the budget resolution for fiscal year 2000.

H. Res. 137 waives all points of order against the conference report to accompany H. Con. Res. 68 and against its consideration. The rule provides that the conference report is considered as read. The rule further provides for 1 hour of general debate on the conference report, equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Budget.

Mr. Speaker, the deadline for passing the budget is this week, and I am pleased the House will pass the budget resolution on time. In fact, when the budget resolution is adopted by the House and Senate by Thursday, it will be only the second time in 25 years that the U.S. Congress has met the statutory deadline. As we promised, this Congress has quietly been a workhorse, going about its legislative work in a businesslike manner that we planned at the beginning of the new year.

I am not only pleased we have completed this budget resolution in a timely manner, but I am delighted this budget reaffirms our support for less government and more freedom for the American people. Like the first debate on the budget, I expect today's debate will also center upon the differences between the parties and the role of the Federal Government, and I welcome that debate.

Mr. Speaker, the conference report is very similar to the budget passed by the House in March. Our budget saves Social Security by ensuring that 100 percent of the money from payroll taxes destined for the Social Security Trust Fund remains in the trust fund. That is \$1.8 trillion over the next decade for retirement security. Our budget strengthens Social Security and ensures that big spenders can no longer raid the fund to pay for their big government spending programs.

Mr. Speaker, after saving Social Security and Medicare, the real question is what do we do with the remainder of the surplus. The Congress says give it back. When previous Congresses could not figure out how to run the government, they turned to the American people for more taxes. Now that we have a surplus, the big spenders do not want to give the people a refund. They want to spend it on new, wasteful, bureaucratic programs.

A few months ago, we received a preview of this debate when the President stated, "We could give it all back to you and hope you spend it right." But the President then preceded to explain that he really should not give back the surplus because Federal Government bureaucrats could make wiser choices with the American people's paychecks than they could.

That is the ideological choice we will deal with today. Our budget is designed to provide more freedom and power to the American people. The President's budget was designed to keep the taxpayers' money controlled in this town.

We simply believe that individuals make much better choices about their lives than bureaucrats do. The President's budget suggests that the government can make wiser choices with the paychecks of the American workers. Today in America, Federal tax revenues comprise a record percentage of gross domestic product. The President responded to the growing tax burden by saying, "Fifteen years from now, if the Congress wants to give more tax relief, let them do it."

I have talked to many of my constituents and most of them were not enthusiastic about waiting until the year 2014 to get a tax refund. Therefore, this budget reaffirms our belief that the people know best how to spend their own money and, therefore, we provide the American people with serious tax relief now.

It should be noted that despite the President's rhetoric, his budget would have cut Medicare \$11.9 billion over 5 years. The Republican budget rejects the President's Medicare cuts. Even the President's own Comptroller General, David Walker, has criticized the Clinton Medicare proposal for essentially doing nothing to alter the imbalance between the program's receipts and benefits payments.

The President's cut in Medicare and his fiscal shell games would have endangered the quality of our seniors' health care. Conversely, our budget locks away all of the Social Security Trust Fund surpluses for the Nation's elderly to save, strengthen and preserve Social Security and Medicare.

This budget continues our determined effort to provide more security, more freedom and less government to the American people. The House budget is a common sense plan to provide security for the American people by preserving every penny of the Social Security surplus, return overtaxed paychecks to those who earned it, pay down the national debt, rebuild the national defense, and improve our public schools.

Mr. Speaker, for too long this Nation put too much trust in government rules and decision-making. Ronald Reagan argued that we should trust the people because, "Whenever they are allowed to create and build, whenever they are given a personal stake in deciding economic policies and benefiting from their success, then societies become more dynamic, prosperous, progressive, and free." This budget resolution is written in such a way to provide that freedom to the American families and communities by returning power, money and control back to them.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the rule so that we may complete consideration of this historic budget resolution.