

MAKE EDUCATION THE NUMBER ONE PRIORITY

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

Ms. SANCHEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the President again for including school construction tax credits in his fiscal year 2000 budget. The bond proposals that he has offered are based on concepts included in the legislation I just introduced.

When our Nation is facing the most rapid student enrollment increases ever in our history, we must ask, are our schools prepared?

I remember education being a top priority for candidates and incumbents in this past election season. Well, let us keep those promises from the election. Let us make education our number one priority.

I have been on this floor a number of times recounting the horror stories from my own district, about teachers working in closets, about 50 kids in every classroom, about those portable classrooms littering our playground blacktops. The stories that I have told just are not happening in Orange County, California; I know they must be happening in your districts also.

So I encourage the Speaker and the leadership and the Democrats to find a solution to this problem. Please, co-sponsor H.R. 415 and support school construction tax cuts. Our children need it.

THE BEST SCHOOLS AND MILITARY AGENDA

(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, the Republican Party has a very good agenda, it is called BEST Schools and Military: B for balancing the budget, paying down the debt; E for excellence in education; S for saving Social Security; and T for lowering taxes, with the strongest military in the world.

We want to work with the President. I was encouraged with his State of the Union speech. But when the President starts getting obligations to the whacky fringe left, I get scared, because it scares my middle class voting constituency back home.

Yesterday the President said something very curious. He said we could give the budget surplus back to you and hope that you spend it right.

Who is he? Who are we to tell the American people we do not trust you with your money? This is the whacky fringe left at its best.

I believe the American taxpayers, the hard working, middle class moms and dads throughout the country, can spend their money quite well, without a bunch of busybody Washington bureaucrats telling them ‘We are smarter than you because we are elected and we are going to spend your money.’

I disagree with the President. I think the American people can spend their money better than Congress in many cases.

□ 1030

SAVING THE BUDGET SURPLUS FOR SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE—NOT GOP TAX CUTS

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

Mr. SHOWS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to stress my strong support of using the budget surplus for saving Social Security and Medicare first.

We are not out of the woods yet on protecting Social Security, and to squander money away from the budget surplus to pay for a large indiscriminate tax cut would be irresponsible and would further put our Social Security system at risk.

I support tax cuts, but we have to target them where we need them. Target them for working families. Target them for business and development, and for research and development.

We must not put our Social Security system at risk. Saving Social Security first is my number one priority for the people of Mississippi’s 4th District and it should be our number one priority as a Congress for the American people.

GOOD NEWS FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

(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, I have good news about my city and yours. This morning’s paper reports that the District of Columbia has a \$450 million surplus and a clean audit. Yes, this is the same city that needed a control board three years ago and clearly does not need one now.

The District will not even have to use the authority Congress gave it to borrow and eliminate an operating deficit. The city will pay down that large deficit from its own revenue. The surplus is by no means all a matter of a good economy. Cuts in government redundancy and waste and improved tax collections have had a lot to do with it.

The District has a new mayor and a reinvigorated city council. A quiet revolution is in progress in the city where this House lives, right under our noses. Look for me to come to the floor often to tell my colleagues what they need to know and, I am sure, what they want to hear about a Nation’s Capital where all can be proud.

SAVE SOCIAL SECURITY FIRST

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

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, there is no better example of the loss of trust in government than our Social Security program. Social Security is one of the great accomplishments of our government in this century and one of the most successful programs in our history.

When Social Security was passed more than 60 years ago, a majority of the elderly lived in poverty, lived in fear of destitution in old age, and it was a fear that was crippling all of society. Today, Social Security benefits not just those who depend on Social Security primarily to put food on their table, but it benefits all of society.

Yet, in my district in New Jersey, and I believe in most of my colleagues’ districts, we would be hard put to find anyone who thinks they will get a dime from Social Security for all of the taxes they have paid. That skepticism shows the serious problem of trust we face.

We must restore faith in this fundamental Federal program. That is why we must save Social Security first before we turn to tax cuts.

PROTECT SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, in 1992, the Republicans’ mantra when I was running for election the first time was deficit and national debt and the harm it was causing to our children and our children’s future. Being the realist that I am, I came here and got immediately involved in doing away first with our deficit. The 1993 budget passed with only Democratic votes, and got us on the road to where we are today with a surplus. We did what we were supposed to do. We came up with a surplus. That is our challenge now.

What does the majority party do? What are they proposing? Rather than saving Social Security and in so doing, reducing the national debt, they return to their real mantra of spending our surplus on tax cuts, tax cuts that will give two-thirds of the wealthiest people in this Nation the benefit. It will give the top 10 to 20 percent of the well-off two-thirds of the benefit.

This will not reduce our national debt. It will not protect Social Security.

CONGRATULATIONS TO DENVER BRONCOS

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

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, this past Sunday in the Super Bowl, the Denver Broncos defeated the Atlanta Falcons 34 to 19. It was a hard-fought game, and the Atlanta Dirty Birds came up a little short.

Today I rise to say congratulations to the Denver Broncos and to my colleague, the gentlewoman from Colorado (Ms. DEGETTE).

Denver won the Super Bowl and our colleague won our friendly little bet. So this morning I presented to my colleague and her staff a month's supply of Georgia peanuts and Atlanta's own Coca-Cola. Enjoy the Coke and peanuts and the victory, while you can.

Next year the Dirty Birds will be back.

A SWEET VICTORY

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

Ms. DEGETTE. Madam Speaker, I am proud to be standing here today with one of the most esteemed Members of Congress, and also one of the best sports in Congress, the gentleman from Atlanta (Mr. LEWIS) to celebrate our Denver Broncos' victory last Sunday. The Dirty Birds made a valiant effort, I say to my colleague, but our mighty Broncos were just too strong.

The victory was sweet. Its spoils are even sweeter. I would like to thank the Congressman from Atlanta and his staff for delivering the month's supply of Coca-Cola and the peanuts to our office. Very sweet indeed.

A sweet win for Mike Shanahan, who has proven once again he knows football better than any other coach in the NFL. A sweet victory for Terrell Davis, who continually racks up consecutive 100 yard games. But this does set a tradition of Super Bowl dominance. We need a three-peat. We need our quarterback, John Elway, to come back for the three-peat next year.

I would like to thank my colleague the gentleman from Atlanta (Mr. LEWIS) for being such a good sport. We are looking forward to seeing the Dirty Birds in the Super Bowl, and when we three-peat, we know the gentleman will be just as good a sport then as he is now.

POLITICALLY POPULAR PROMISES

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

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, one of the main reasons the economy has been so strong over the last few years is that following the 1994 elections, we finally started bringing Federal spending under control. Alice Rivlin, who was the President's budget director, put out a memo in 1993 saying that if we did not make changes, we would have deficits of over \$1 trillion a year by the year 2010 and \$4 trillion to \$5 trillion a year by 2030. If we had allowed that to happen, our economy would have crashed. Now we are actually seeing surpluses.

But it is politically popular and very easy to promise everything to everybody. The National Taxpayers' Union

said the President's State of the Union address would require a \$288.4 billion increase in spending in the first year alone. Last week Newsweek magazine published a chart showing we would have a shortfall of \$2.3 trillion in the next 15 years if we enacted all of these programs.

If we do this, Madam Speaker, we will very quickly be in serious trouble in our economy once again. We must not let it happen.

SAVE SOCIAL SECURITY WITH BUDGET SURPLUS

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

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the President's plan to use the budget surplus to save Social Security. Our country is experiencing record economic growth; inflation is down; job growth and homeownership are up; and we are experiencing the first budget surplus in over a generation. I support the President's plan to use the budget surplus to ensure the long-term fiscal success of the Social Security program.

In my own district of Queens and the Bronx in New York, tens of thousands of people are able to retire with dignity because of the Social Security system. For all American seniors, Social Security is truly an American success story.

Madam Speaker, we must as a Congress work to ensure that this successful American program continues to be fiscally sound and economically successful in order to provide benefits for the baby boomers of today and the retirees of tomorrow. The President's budget ensures the long-term success of the Social Security system by providing tax cuts for working families. I urge my colleagues to support the use of the surplus to save Social Security.

SPENDING PRIORITIES

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

Mr. GARY MILLER of California. We have heard much debate today about saving Social Security and spending 62 percent of the surplus to do it. I agree with that 100 percent. Our Medicare has to be ensured to be there for our generation and the generation to come. The same is true for defense. How can we expect those defending our Nation to feed their family using food stamps? It is deplorable and we need to change that.

But if we listened to the President's State of the Union, it is obvious big government just came roaring back. When do we start trusting the American people? What do we do with the remaining 38 percent of the surplus if we are going to spend 62 percent for Social Security? Let us give the people their money back.

We talk about making sure we are going to better education for the future. When will we start trusting parents? When will we start trusting school boards? When will we start trusting teachers to provide education?

The Federal Government has 790 various programs associated with education. The mandates associated with those programs generally cost more to implement than they receive from the Federal Government. That has to be changed.

Let us start trusting parents; let us start trusting taxpayers; let us start trusting individuals with their rights.

ONE BAD DEAL

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

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, a 10 percent across-the-board income tax cut, what could sound more appealing, more simple, more fair?

Hearing those words, hard-working American taxpayers start dreaming about what they could do with the money. Replace that beater with a new car, repair the leaky roof, send their child to college, maybe take that long-awaited second honeymoon. Well, forget it.

The sad truth is that 77 percent of all taxpayers, nearly 35 million people, would receive no tax cut at all. A two-parent family of four with annual income below \$25,000 would get nothing.

So who benefits from that trillion-dollar tax cut over the next decade? Citizens for Tax Justice tell us it is the wealthiest Americans.

Here is the deal. Taxpayers earning \$38,000 get back \$99. Taxpayers earning over \$300,000 get a tax cut of \$20,000. For most of us, this is one bad deal.

ASSURING AMERICA'S FUTURE

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

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Madam Speaker, let American workers have no doubt who is on their side. Across-the-board tax relief means all taxpayers will get to keep a little more of what they earn, not what Washington earns, what they earn. Unlike the approach offered by the other side whereby only some people get a tax cut while others do not, the Republican approach means that if one pays taxes, if one is giving up one's hard-earned paycheck, one is going to get a little more tax relief.

Our education reforms will cut the Federal bureaucracy and send more money directly down to teachers. Our Social Security reforms will protect seniors who are in the program, the near elderly, the baby boomers like myself, and especially those young people coming into a system they do not believe is ever going to be there when they need it at retirement.

Our proposal to build a long-term 21st century defense system will address new threats to our Nation. That