

The COPS program has hired, redeployed and retained over 100,000 more police officers who are now more recognized and are active members of their community. But more than that, Community Oriented Policing has proven its effectiveness in the fighting of crime. For example, in my district there is one agency that has seen crime rates drop 58 percent just over the last 5 years. That is more than half of the crime dropping.

Now that the COPS program has reached its goal of placing 100,000 more cops on the beat, it is time to take the next step in crime fighting, and that is through using the most advanced technology to make our police more effective, more efficient and more responsive.

I know a lot of Americans probably watch all of these police officer programs on television and they see all these high-tech types of things going on, computer databasing, et cetera, in which they are able to get the bad guy because of this. But the reality is much different in what is happening across the Nation.

For example, I was in the other day with one of my police departments where they told me it takes them almost a year to check fingerprints because they have no forensic lab right in their own police department. They sent off a pair of fingerprints that used to take 6 to 12 minutes to check, and they called back and were told it would take about a year before they could get the results back. They said, well, this is a very important case. And the woman on the other line said, well, if it is a very important case, we could probably make it faster. He said, well, how about the homicide of a policeman; is that important enough? And she said oh, yes, I think we can do that in two months. Meanwhile, the bad guys keep going on and doing the bad things.

The President has proposed \$1.3 billion for the new 21st Century Policing Initiative. Part of that initiative includes giving law enforcement access to the latest crime fighting technologies. This past week I had three or four departments come in and show me some of the prototypes that they have for working with computers with analysis. One of my local police departments, Santa Ana Police Department, is eagerly awaiting to see such a Justice Department program come to fruition. Santa Ana PD has already developed plans for a crime analysis unit which would map and analyze crime patterns. The work of the unit would survey crime trends and patterns to more efficiently allocate police resources and to more quickly apprehend career criminals and predict crime problems.

In the 21st century our greatest tool to fight crime is information. When departments have detailed data on crime statistics or arrest reports they can then achieve a better understanding of each city's crime problems and how to best respond. More importantly, crime

analysis contributes to the COPS' philosophy by reducing administration and investigation work for our police officers.

With Santa Ana PD's excellence in community policing, and their foresight in developing a modern advanced technology to fight crime, they can develop a crime analysis unit that departments across the country can use as a model.

Let's work together to make the next step in law enforcement work. I urge my colleagues to support the 21st Century Policing Initiative and to support funding programs like the Santa Ana crime analysis unit.

NATIONAL DEBT IS NOT GOING DOWN UNDER PRESIDENT'S RECENTLY RELEASED BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentleman from California (Mr. HERGER) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, the White House would like the American public and this Congress to believe that the national debt is going down under their recently released fiscal year 2000 budget. But let us look at page 389 of the President's very own budget from his Office of Management and Budget. We see that the total national debt not only does not go down but, in fact, is actually going up each year for the next 5 years to the tune of \$1.3 trillion.

Just last week I asked the President's Budget Director, Jacob Lew, during a Committee on the Budget hearing, about this, and he was evasive about the fact that the President's own budget calls for \$1.3 trillion more in total debt on our children and grandchildren. I then asked Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin, the next day during a Ways and Means hearing, the same question, and Secretary Rubin refused to answer a yes or no question about whether the total debt is actually going up.

Mr. Speaker, President Clinton and his administration are grossly misleading the American people when they say the public debt is going down. They are telling a half truth. The President and his administration are correct in saying the public debt will go down, but what they are not telling us is that the total debt, the debt held by the government for Social Security and other trust funds, is going up at an even faster rate, which makes the total debt go up by, yes, \$1.3 trillion over the next 5 years. No matter if the debt is held by the public or in various trust funds, it is still debt that must be paid back at some future point.

The Clinton administration is doing future generations no favors in this budget. More accurately, it is dishonest and disingenuous for the Clinton-Gore administration to tout huge surpluses on one hand when, on the other, their budget places even more debt on

the shoulders of our children and grandchildren. And as if forcing \$1.3 trillion in more debt on future generations was not enough, the President's budget called for a net tax increase of \$45.8 billion, and requests an additional \$150 billion in new spending over the next 5 years.

Mr. Speaker, it is the duty of this Congress to stop this assault on our future generations and all taxpayers. I urge my colleagues to amend the President's budget and to live within our means and to begin paying down our \$5.5 trillion national debt.

□ 1300

EXECUTIVE ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SWEENEY). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. METCALF) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. METCALF. Mr. Speaker, to date, the President has issued 278 executive orders. A number of these have infringed on the powers and duties of Congress as dictated by Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution. One was even rescinded by Congress last year.

Today, I am introducing a concurrent resolution regarding executive orders. This vital legislation reasserts the role and responsibility of Congress to enact laws and to appropriate federal dollars. My resolution reminds all of us that only Congress has the power to spend Federal monies.

In the first century of our Nation's history, there were no problems with executive orders. They seemed to fit within the legitimate powers of the presidency because they were used mostly to direct Federal employees in carrying out their legitimate functions.

However, early in this century, presidents began issuing executive orders that pushed beyond the prescribed presidential authority. But somehow these orders seemed reasonable. They were accepted with criticism coming only from jurists and scholars who were concerned about the fine points of balance among the three coequal branches of government.

Thus, as always with the usurpation of power and authority, it begins in ways that seem needed, or at least reasonable. My resolution seeks to avoid any confusion or obscurity concerning executive orders by reestablishing congressional authority under Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution. This resolution also expresses the sense of the Congress that any executive order which infringes on congressional powers and duties or which requires the expenditure of Federal funds be advisory only and have neither force nor effect unless enacted into law.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, executive orders are not authorized by the Constitution. We in Congress have taken an oath to uphold the Constitution and

protect the balance that was established. I will not violate that oath, and I encourage my fellow Members of Congress to join me in cosponsoring and supporting this resolution.

ADMINISTRATION DECREASES BUDGET FOR VETERANS ADMINISTRATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentleman from California (Mr. MCKEON) is recognized during morning hour debates for 2 minutes.

Mr. MCKEON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to bring to the attention of this House a serious problem that is facing our veterans.

While the Clinton administration is discussing, if not formalizing, the decision to send our men and women into Kosovo, they are not planning or formalizing plans on what will occur when they return home. For the third consecutive year, the Clinton administration has produced a budget that cuts veterans' funding. The administration is adding new programs and placing new burdens on the Veterans Administration while decreasing their budget.

The Veterans Administration budget has tremendous shortfalls in general health benefits, research grants for problems unique to our military veterans, and finally in burial benefits. Our veterans today are fortunate to even have a flag at their funeral let alone an honor guard. Over 50 percent of our national cemeteries are full or open only for cremation. Furthermore, only three new cemeteries are planned and with a 10-year window to open one, the problem of where our veterans are buried will only escalate in importance.

How does the Clinton administration plan to solve these problems? By cutting funding for our veterans, by taking researchers out of the lab and into patient care, by refusing to offer a credible short-term, midterm, or even long-term solution to burial issues.

As the Clinton administration continues to consider sending our men and women into harm's way, I call upon them to think about what they will do when they return home. Let's show some appreciation for their dedication and hard work by never again disgracing them with a budget like this.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. There being no further requests for morning hour debates, pursuant to clause 12, rule I, the House will stand in recess until 2 p.m.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 5 minutes p.m.) the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Reverend James David FORD, D.D., offered the following prayer:

When we think of people and their needs, we know we can offer our prayers for ourselves and for all people. When we see illness, we pray that You, O God, would give renewed strength and make whole; when we see alienation or estrangement, we know that we can pray for Your gift of reconciliation and understanding; when we see wars or conflict, we pray that hostilities would ease and peace would reign; when we see a lack of spirit so that faith is not there and meaninglessness is widespread, then we pray, O God, give us hearts that are open to Your grace and Your love.

Bless us and all Your people this day we pray. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PETERSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

STORAGE OF NUCLEAR WASTE AT EARTHQUAKE HOTBED IS STUPID

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

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, most of us see earthquakes in real tangible terms: A natural disaster, an unpredictable violent force of nature that mankind has been trying to predict, and outwit, for centuries. We see earthquakes as a cause of billions of dollars worth of structural destruction and the cause of death for untold thousands of people.

It seems now that the scientists over at the Department of Energy are seeing earthquakes in other terms. Now they are just "part of the plan," part of the plan to "hasten the process," I quote, to cover up high level nuclear waste at Yucca Mountain.

Folks, Yucca Mountain is the heart of 32 known earthquake faults, just hundreds of feet from our groundwater levels, and just miles away from the homes of thousands of Nevada residents. Boy, talk about con men and city slickers.

For the better part of a century, DOE has been trying desperately to fit a

square peg in a round hole, knowing they are unable to develop structures that can withstand the crushing force of earthquakes. Now they are telling us they are trying to cash in on the destructive power of earthquakes. I guess that means that the mountain, when it collapses, will help cover up the waste. That is unbelievable.

Albert Einstein once said, "There are only two truly infinite things, the universe and stupidity. And I am unsure about the universe."

Mr. Speaker, to store nuclear waste at a hot bed of earthquakes in Nevada is stupidity, and I am doubly sure about that.

SOCIAL SECURITY MUST BE SAVED

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I join with those who maintain that we must save Social Security, we must save it for the 46,481 households in my district back in Illinois who currently receive it, and we must save it for the millions of workers and their families who need the economic security and protection which it provides.

Since its inception, Social Security has provided benefits to more than 160 million workers and their families. Without our Social Security system, half of the Nation's elderly would live in poverty. We must save Social Security for the unmarried and elderly widowed women who rely upon it for more than half of their income. There are over 53,000 female head of households with no husband present in my district alone.

Mr. Speaker, this is not the time to cut and experiment. We know what works, we know how it works, and we know why it works. Let us keep it working for all of the people.

AMERICANS KNOW BEST HOW TO SPEND THEIR OWN MONEY

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

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, as American taxpayers keep a steady eye on April 15, only 65 days away, many will notice that the \$500 per child tax credit passed by the Republican Congress in 1997 will make things a little easier this year.

For those with children, the pain of April 15 will be mitigated somewhat because the Republican Congress passed legislation allowing middle class families with children to keep a little bit more of what they earned.

Let us remember a key point that seems to be overlooked by those on the other side of the aisle: Washington did not "give" anything to millions of middle class families with children; Uncle Sam is merely allowing them to keep a