Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, I want to reiterate. The Republican budget contains $200 billion more in debt reduction than does the Democrat proposals. You heard that right. Our budget is better on debt reduction than the Democrat budget is according to the Congressional Budget Office.

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But one would never know it from listening to some of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, many of whom seem to be positively incapable of describing our tax cut proposal accurately.

Republicans call for both tax relief and debt reduction in our proposal. Indeed, our plan would reduce the debt held by the public by slightly over $2 trillion over the next 10 years. To call that irresponsible is reckless or a bit odd. We have a balanced and fair plan that not only provides for debt reduction and tax relief, but insists on a Social Security and Medicare lockbox provision for the first time. One hundred percent of the retirement surplus would go to Social Security and Medicare.

In other words, all FICA taxes would actually go towards the programs they were designed to go towards, Social Security and Medicare.

Do Democrats really think that is reckless?

## PORKER OF THE WEEK AWARD

(Mr. HEFLEY asked and was given permission to address the House.)

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, to prevent potential catastrophic nationwide computer meltdown, the Securities and Exchange Commission, or the SEC, is fighting brokers and firms to ensure that their computers actually read ''00'' as of January 1 of 2000.

Recently an 87-year-old broker who has spent 50 years in the investment business was fined $5,000 for not being Y2K compliant. There is only one problem. This particular gentleman does not own a computer. His operation is so small, he does not actually sell them mutual funds; he just gives advice. He never touches any money at all.

Mr. Speaker, that has not stopped the SEC from demanding a yearly audit of his firm which costs him another $5,000. He went ahead, and he paid the original Y2K fine because he could not afford the money to fight the bureaucracy.

He will not be without a computer for long, however. New SEC regulations insist that all brokers have a computer so they can receive e-mail notices from the agencies.

Here we have a legitimate businessman being harassed and intimidated by his own government agency paid for by his own tax dollars. Outrageous. It is inexcusable and a waste of taxpayers' time and money.

The Securities and Exchange Commission gets my porker of the week award and my disgust.

## STOP THE ANTI-MINING GREED

(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, well, here we go again. The left-leaning, anti-mining zealots want a Federal tax on all mining operations on an estimated, hypothetical, or proposed value of a mine. Moreover, the proposed values that are given to these mines are nothing but sheer guesses that always grossly overexaggerate the worth of the mineral deposit.

For example, some of these mining opponents cite the Stillwater Mine in Montana as a taxpayer giveaway of $38 billion. Grossly exaggerated, Mr. Speaker. $38 billion could fund a hostile takeover of the Ford Motor Company. This amount of money could purchase the entire metal mining industry in the United States and Canada.

Some claim that patents to Barrick Gold Mine have a value of $10 billion. Keep in mind that the supposed 10 billion is wrapped up in a small acreage of desert rock. Using their irrational logic, one could say that the raw land beneath the Washington Post printing plant would be worth several billion dollars itself.

In 1556 Georgious Agricola stated the miners should start mining operations in a district only where it is friendly. This quote still holds true today. Stop the anti-mining greed.

## MOURNING THE PASSING OF REV. BOOKER T. SEARS OF SPARTANBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA

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

Mr. DEMINT. Mr. Speaker, every community has citizens that strive to improve the way of life for all those around them. They serve others because they want to, not because they have to.

One such man was Reverend Booker T. Sears of Spartanburg, South Carolina. Last week Reverend Sears, a pioneer civil rights leader and respected community leader, passed away at his home. Reverend Sears was pastor of Thompson Street Baptist Church for nearly 50 years. His efforts within the community helped integrate public schools, desegregate public transportation, and develop many community improvement projects.

Reverend Sears will be remembered as a man who truly cared about all those around him. During his career, he was a mentor to young pastors and a servant to everyone in the community.

Reverend Sears is a testimony of one man making a difference in the lives of thousands, Mr. Speaker. We will miss Reverend Sears. It is now our time to carry on his mission off love and service.

## LANCE ARMSTRONG: THE REAL MCCOY

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

Mr. KASICH. Mr. Speaker, Sunday afternoon I took the time to sit and really celebrate vicariously, as much as it would be appropriate, as Lance Armstrong pedaled the final 2,300 miles into Paris. What an amazing story for a man who many had given up on. Given less than a 50–50 chance to even survive the cancer that wracked his body, he had incredible steely determination, and he was able to not only overcome cancer, but also to prove so many of the sponsors who had given up on him wrong.

As my colleagues know, this is a time in America when we are all in search of heroes, all in search of the real McCoy. As my colleagues know, I think Lance Armstrong is the real McCoy. When he crossed that victory stripe and he was interviewed by the network, he had not prepared some big braggadocio speech. In fact, it took him 2 or 3 questions to finally get Lance Armstrong to say that with human beings many times we get a second chance, and the second chance may even be better and greater than the first chance.

Lance Armstrong is humble, determined and an inspiration and should be a hero to everyone who lives not just in the boundaries of the United States but around the globe to adults, to our seniors, and to children alike.

God bless you, Lance Armstrong, for your accomplishment.

## PRESCRIPTION POLITICS

(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, the President has proposed that the Medicare program provide free drug prescription. Now anyone with a basic understanding of how markets work knows that the President's proposal will increase demand and ultimately drive up the price of prescription drugs. This in turn will cause insurance rates to rise for everyone who has prescription drug coverage and further worsen the burden of those who do not have drug coverage.

As the price of drugs rise, Medicare's financial position will worsen, and this will lead to higher tax costs for everyone and pressure from the government to put price controls on prescription drugs. This will lead to shortages of prescription drugs and a slowdown in research for new and better drugs. Eventually bureaucrats in Washington will be telling seniors what prescription drugs they are going to be allowed to have.

Now the President is proposing free prescription drugs because at first glance it appears to give seniors something for nothing. But he and his advisers know as well as I do the harm that

it will do seniors and the rest of us. He is proposing this to play politics, to try to thwart tax cuts, and try to have a bigger, more powerful government.

## RETURN THE BUDGET SURPLUS TO THE PEOPLE IT BELONGS TO

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

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, government or the people; that is the question. Should the projected budget surpluses be kept in Washington, D.C., or should it be returned to the people it belongs to?

On the liberal side of the aisle, they say, trust politicians. We won't spend it. We'll invest it wisely for you.

On the conservative side of the aisle, we look at human nature. All of our history, and especially the track record of these very same people making these promises and we say, nice try. Let's give it back to the taxpayers before politicians in Washington spend it.

The idea that the same people who blocked Ronald Reagan's attempts at cutting spending and then blamed Reagan for budget deficits, the same people who call Republicans extremists every time we try to cut spending, the same people who become hysterical every time Republicans insist on fiscal discipline are now asking us to trust they will not spend the budget surplus. I find that completely absurd, and in any case, that money belongs to the people, not to the government.

## THREE THINGS WE HAVE TO DO WITH THE SURPLUS

(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, we now have a surplus for the first time since 1969, and there are two reasons for this: number one, Congress has brought in the rein on spending; but number two, and more importantly, hard-working Americans have worked their tails off, and tax revenues have increased as a result of it.

I believe there are three things we need to do with that surplus and there are three things that the Republican bill did do last week.

Number one, protected and preserved Social Security and Medicare. This bill set aside $1.9 trillion in Social Security and Medicare and used a lockbox device. Keep in mind the President not only wanted to preserve 62 percent of Social Security, the Republican bill preserves 100 percent.

The number two thing this bill does is pays down the debt. For 40 years, liberal Washington spending programs have given us a $5.4 trillion debt. This bill pays it down by over $2 trillion.

And then number three, it gives Americans their refund for overcharge on the government. It gives 792 billion in tax relief, and as liberal Senator BOB KERREY says, it is not reckless; it is not irresponsible when you are looking at the surpluses that we are.

I hope that the demagoguery in Washington will stop and we can pass this very important bill for the sake of Social Security, Medicare, and the debt.

## STOP THEM BEFORE THEY SPEND AGAIN

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

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, it is a rather interesting argument that the Republicans make so that they can pass their tax bill to give the vast majority of its benefits to the wealthiest people in this country, and that is they must give the money to the wealthy so that the Congress will not spend the money. It is interesting because there can be no expenditures of that money without Republican votes.

Last time I looked this morning, the Republicans controlled the Senate and the Republicans controlled the House, but they keep saying, You have to stop me before I spend again. It is the Republicans' Committee on Appropriations that is coming up with phony emergencies. They now want to say that the census was an emergency. We could not predict it, we could not see it, we did not know it was coming. That is funny; it has come every 10 years. For the last 200 years of this country we have had a census in this country, but somehow now it is an emergency spending so that they can break the caps, so they can spend the surplus supposedly there for Social Security. Every day now they are dipping into the Social Security Trust Fund to spend more and more money.

So the Republicans are saying, You got to give a tax cut to the wealthiest people, otherwise they will spend the money. Sort of like the son of Sam who was saying, Stop me before I kill again.

Stop them before they spend again.

## ABOLISH DOE

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

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, $30,000 should be enough to purchase a nice car or make a down payment on a house or pay for a couple of years of college, but $30,000 should not be enough to buy a $9 million supercomputer especially when the technology has the potential to be exported for nuclear weapons research. But that is exactly what the Department of Energy has allowed to happen, and when the DOE officials realized their mistake, they scrambled to buy the computer back for three times the sales price.

Now this just does not compute.

The Department has proven time and time again that it does not put a premium on national security, and that is why I have introduced my bill, H.R. 2411, which would eliminate this multi-billion-dollar bureaucracy with confused missions and questionable priorities. Frankly, these are responsibilities that should be handled again by the Department of Defense. We should abolish this agency.

It is time we stopped the Department of Energy from turning our national labs into garage sales. I urge my colleagues to take a closer look at this risk to America's national security interests.

## TRADE POLICY TOWARD THE COMMUNIST REGIME IN CHINA

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

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, in a few brief minutes this House will consider the issue of what trade policy we shall have towards the Communist regime in China.

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It is a bipartisan issue. It is an issue in which there are some Republicans on one side and some Republicans on the other; some Democrats on one side, some Democrats on the other.

I would ask the American people to pay close attention to the debate that we will have on this issue. This debate will determine whether or not this country is remaining true to its principles as stated by our Founding Fathers; whether or not that is indeed our highest value, that freedom and democracy and human rights remain the highest value for the American people.

Mr. Speaker, if we are not committed to those fundamental principles, we will lose in the end, because not only will we not prosper, but our country will be put in jeopardy, our national security will be compromised. This, perhaps, is one of the most important issues that we will discuss this year, and I would hope that the American people pay close attention to the upcoming debate.

## THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GILLMOR). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the pending business is the question of agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal of the last day's proceedings.

The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. MCNULTY. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Evidently a quorum is not present.

The Sergeant at Arms will notify absent Members.