

Mr. Speaker, we need to provide for our veterans. It is a moral obligation.

SAVE SOCIAL SECURITY FIRST

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

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, here we go again. Social Security is the primary retirement system for the majority of retired Americans. It provides benefits to 33 million Americans of all ages and it keeps 12 million of them out of poverty.

The GOP Social Security approach is really an unreliable response that supports wealthy special interests. Why does the GOP want to undercut a sound economy with a tax scheme designed to benefit the few?

We must protect Social Security. This means less debt, lower interest costs, rising living standards, more money made available for seniors' priorities, and more security for Social Security.

The Republican tax cuts mean higher deficits, higher interest rates and lower economic growth. Their tax scheme would make it impossible to continue to pay down and eventually eliminate the debt we have by 2015 as proposed by our President.

My colleagues across the aisle would have us believe that their efforts are to support Social Security, but this is not so. Their tax cut does not cut it.

REPUBLICANS PUT PRIORITY ON SAVING SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE

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

Mr. ROGAN. Mr. Speaker, I would begin by reminding my friend from California that the Democrats controlled this Chamber for 40 years, and in that 40-year period, they put not one penny into the Social Security trust fund. They used the Social Security trust fund for government spending programs.

Now, for the first time in 40 years, Republicans are in control of the Chamber. We campaigned on a tax cut for working families after we protected Social Security, after we protected Medicare. Because of Republican spending priorities, we now have for the first time since Neil Armstrong walked on the Moon a surplus economy. That did not come from liberal profligate spending. That came from Republican proposals that put a priority on Social Security, put a priority on Medicare, put a priority on jobs and put a priority on protecting the paychecks of working families in this country.

That is what Americans voted for in 1994, in 1996 and 1998. As we approach the year 2000, Mr. Speaker, we are going to give them that opportunity again.

CHINA

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

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, 2 days ago, the Communist Chinese government once again had its way with this Congress when this body voted trading privileges for perhaps the most repressive, corrupt regime in the world. American CEOs and Washington attorneys again had their way with Congress even though we have a trade deficit with China of \$65 billion and growing annually.

Beijing and its Communist Party leaders again had their way with this Congress this week even though this Communist Chinese government supports forced abortions, persecution of Christians and Muslims, sale of nuclear technology to Pakistan, child labor and slave labor.

But there was good news, Mr. Speaker, in the vote this week. The vote was closer than it had been in many, many years. Members of this body are beginning to understand and beginning to show that they care about human rights, care about nuclear proliferation, and care about democracy in China.

All of us need to demand that China enter the family of nations before they enter the World Trade Organization.

WICHITA NAMED ALL-AMERICAN CITY

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

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, some people think all the wise and good people are inside the Washington Beltway, but, of course, that is not right as each and every day ordinary people in communities all across this great Nation join together to do extraordinary things.

The City of Wichita, Kansas, led by its outstanding mayor and my friend, Bob Knight, was recently named an All-American City by the National Civic League. This is a great honor and one worthy of mention here on the floor of the People's House.

The three programs the city of Wichita submitted in its winning All-American City application are Wichita's Promise: The Alliance for Youth; Wichita Independent Neighborhoods; and the Cessna 21st Street Learning and Work Campus.

These programs are volunteer driven and do the hard work and sometimes thankless work of making our Nation better by making our communities better, one at a time. I want to publicly thank everyone associated with each of these organizations because, thanks to you, Wichita is an All-American City and America is a better place to live.

SALUTE TO LANCE ARMSTRONG, WINNER OF TOUR DE FRANCE

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, we have again seen the face of courage. It is Lance Armstrong's.

Lying in his hospital bed just 3 years ago, Mr. Armstrong was fired by his French bicycle racing team. He suffered from testicular cancer and was given less than a 40 percent chance of survival.

He underwent two operations and 12 weeks of chemotherapy, but he refused to succumb and now has prevailed by winning the Tour de France last Sunday.

Lance Armstrong was not alone on this long journey back. The one team willing to take a chance on Mr. Armstrong was sponsored by the United States Postal Service. The Postal Service deserves great credit.

This wonderful story reminds me of a poem by another American trailblazer, Amelia Earhart. She wrote:

Courage is the price that life extracts for granting peace.

The soul that knows it not knows no release from little things;

knows not the livid loneliness of fear, nor mountain heights where bitter joy can hear the sounds of wings.

Lance Armstrong knows both and inspires us all.

AGRICULTURE CRISIS

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

Mr. EWING. Mr. Speaker, there is an ag crisis. The cause is excessive world production and lost markets that we counted on. The result has been reduced exports and disastrously low commodity prices.

Can the great economic engine of America continue to move on and up with the enormous agricultural engine pulling the other way? I doubt it.

On this issue, Congress has acted and must act again. We have done things to open new markets: The NTR vote this week, anti-embargo legislation which we passed in this House, unilateral sanction reform, tax reform, capital gains, estate tax, which are good for our farmers.

But when we come back from the recess, we are going to have to take up, if we have not already passed, the crop insurance reform bill, and we are going to have to deal with emergency lost market payments and adequate financing for our American farmers. Let us not forget this enormous part of our agricultural economy.

REPUBLICAN TAX BILL OUT OF STEP WITH AMERICAN PEOPLE

(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, we have a projected Federal surplus, the first in three decades. We must be responsible. We must use that surplus so that it reflects our values as a people and as a Nation. Sadly, the Republican leadership would rather give whopping tax breaks to the wealthiest Americans.

Instead of reasonable tax relief targeted to working, middle-class families, the House Republican leadership passed a scheme that gives 65 percent of the benefit to the top 10 percent of Americans. Their plan does nothing to extend Social Security by a single day. It dedicates not one penny to strengthening Medicare. It forces deep cuts in education, crime fighting and national defense. These tax breaks for the wealthy are evidence that Republican values are out of step with the American people. I hope we will heed the advice of the Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan who warned that, and I quote, the time is not right for whopping tax breaks. I call upon cooler heads to prevail so that we can use this surplus to strengthen Medicare and Social Security to keep faith with our parents and with our children, give tax relief to middle-class families and reduce the Federal debt.

□ 1030

REPUBLICAN PLAN PUTS FIRST THINGS FIRST

(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, are tax cuts good for America? Should we have a fairer, simpler Tax Code? Should the excess taxes projected to be paid by the American people over the next 10 years be used as the President and the Democrats propose for massive new spending or should some of it be returned to the taxpayers?

The President says we should do first things first. Last fall, he said we should set aside 100 percent of Social Security for Social Security. But then he proposed a budget that said, no, let us just set 62 percent aside for Social Security and use the other 38 percent for new spending.

By putting spending over saving the President has put first things last. The Republican plan does put first things first. It starts by saying, let us hold the line on spending. Then it says 100 percent of Social Security for Social Security. Then it says, pay down the debt \$2 trillion and set aside 2 hundred billion for Medicare reform and a pharmacy benefit and then reform taxes with simpler, lower, fairer taxes for virtually every American.

This Republican plan is a good plan, it is the right plan for America.

VOTE AGAINST ATTACHMENTS TO D.C. APPROPRIATION

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

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues are about to have an out of body legislative experience. When the D.C. appropriation comes to the floor shortly, they will be asked to appropriate somebody else's money. Worse, a local budget that has no business here will become an excuse for attachments that are anathema to the people I represent.

In our Federalist system no action is regarded as more oppressive than national usurpation of local law. The Republic will not fall if my colleagues vote against these attachments. It will be weakened if they do what they would not stand for in their own districts and vote to tell local residents how they may spend their own local funds.

Please vote against the attachments to the D.C. appropriation.

WE NEED TAX REFORM NOW

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

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, last week I was proud to support the largest tax cut in a decade. It is one of the things that I was sent here to Congress to do. But as my colleagues know, Mr. Speaker, paging through this bill, all 500 pages of it, I was reminded again of how tax relief is not enough. Congress must do more. Congress must deliver tax reform and do it now.

Earlier this year I caught another glimpse of that need when a constituent of mine sent me some letters, a case that he is working on with the IRS. In his letters, he has letters from the IRS promising to get back to him on April 19, May 19, June 18, July 16, and most recently, August 16.

It is time to stop this bureaucratic run-around. It is time that we scrapped the IRS code and replaced it with a simpler, fairer code and a tax code that works for taxpayers, not the other way around.

REPUBLICAN TAX PLAN, A BLUEPRINT FOR FISCAL IRRESPONSIBILITY

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

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I take the contrary view. The Republican tax bill is the new definition of fiscal irresponsibility.

We have a historic opportunity to pay down the national debt. But the Republican plan not only ignores debt retirement, it requires \$155 billion in

additional spending on interest on the national debt.

The party that says it loathes government spending proposes \$155 billion in extra spending, not on education, not on veterans health care, not on the environment, but on the Federal equivalent of a credit card service charge. Moreover, the Republicans refuse to extend the solvency of Social Security and Medicare and instead give a huge tax break for the wealthy and special interests. They rejected the democratic plan that makes Social Security and Medicare the first priority.

Mr. Speaker, our Nation's current and future retirees deserve more than that.

Finally, the Republican tax bill gives 65 percent of the tax breaks to the wealthiest 10 percent. The richest 10 percent do not have trouble paying for their children's education, their parents' long-term care, or their own health care premiums. Only the Democratic plan offers targeted class relief for the middle class.

A DIFFERENCE IN PHILOSOPHY

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

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring some truth back into this whole debate about our government surpluses. Here is what the Republican Congress has proposed: \$2 trillion toward reducing the national debt, far more than the President and the Democratic party has proposed; stopping the raid on the Social Security Trust Fund; putting \$200 billion into shoring up Medicare; and if after those goals are achieved, our constituents continue to pay their taxes, give hard-working American working families tax relief.

The Democrats' and the President's plan? Raid Social Security by the tune of \$341 billion, increase the national debt, do not put as much down to the national debt as we do, and keep all of the extra money in Washington. If Americans overpay their taxes, the President, and the Democrats want to spend the money.

The difference is not tax cuts or debt reduction; the difference is tax cuts or new spending on new Washington programs.

The President put it best when he said in Buffalo, New York to a packed crowd of 35,000 people:

"We could give you your money back, but we wouldn't be sure that you would spend it right."

Mr. Speaker, that is the difference. It is a difference in philosophy. We think people should get more of their own money after we start paying down debt, after we stop the raid on Social Security.

KEEPING PACE WITH MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY

(Mr. LAMPSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1