

Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Alabama?

Mr. MENENDEZ. Reserving the right to object, can the distinguished chairman advise me when this debate is going to commence on Monday?

Mr. CALLAHAN. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. MENENDEZ. I yield to the gentleman from Alabama.

Mr. CALLAHAN. I am informed that we will begin debate on this issue at 4 o'clock on Monday.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would inquire if the unanimous consent request assumes that the amendment will be reoffered at a subsequent time when the Committee resumes its sitting on a subsequent day?

Mr. CALLAHAN. I felt, Mr. Speaker, that the pending amendment would be the order of business at that time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. At a subsequent time, not this evening; is that correct?

Mr. CALLAHAN. At a subsequent time, yes.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, and just in protecting the rights of the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. ANDREWS), when we are talking about a subsequent time, so that he knows, will this debate on his amendment begin, the proceedings, at 4 o'clock on Monday; is that the correct understanding?

Mr. CALLAHAN. Mr. Speaker, will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. PELOSI. I yield to the gentleman from Alabama.

Mr. CALLAHAN. The purpose of my unanimous consent is to come back into session at 4 o'clock on Monday next, at which time, when the Committee of the Whole is reestablished, we would then be on the Andrews amendment. At that point there would be 30 minutes divided, 15 minutes on each side, when the Committee of the Whole was regrouped.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, may I ask the chairman how the time would be allocated; who would control the time?

Mr. CALLAHAN. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. ANDREWS. I yield to the gentleman from Alabama.

Mr. CALLAHAN. The Chair would have to answer that, but my understanding is that the sponsor of the amendment would have 15 minutes and someone else designated by the Chair would have 15 minutes to oppose the gentleman's amendment. I would assume that would be me.

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The amendment is withdrawn without prejudice to it being reoffered whenever

the Committee resumes its setting under a 30-minute time limit for debate, equally divided.

Without objection, the unanimous consent request is granted.

There was no objection.

[Roll No. 351]

AYES—13

Boucher	Paul	Taylor (MS)
Campbell	Payne	Thompson (MS)
Conyers	Rohrabacher	Watt (NC)
Hostettler	Sanford	
McKinney	Sensenbrenner	

NOES—414

Abercrombie	DeGette	Hutchinson
Ackerman	Delahunt	Hyde
Aderholt	DeLauro	Inslee
Allen	DeLay	Isakson
Andrews	DeMint	Istook
Archer	Deutsch	Jackson (IL)
Armey	Diaz-Balart	Jackson-Lee
Bachus	Dickey	(TX)
Baird	Dicks	Jefferson
Baker	Dingell	Jenkins
Baldacci	Dixon	John
Baldwin	Doggett	Johnson (CT)
Ballenger	Doolley	Johnson, E. B.
Barcia	Doolittle	Johnson, Sam
Barr	Doyle	Jones (NC)
Barrett (NE)	Dreier	Jones (OH)
Barrett (WI)	Duncan	Kanjorski
Bartlett	Dunn	Kaptur
Bass	Edwards	Kasich
Bateman	Ehlers	Kelly
Becerra	Ehrlich	Kennedy
Bentsen	Emerson	Kildee
Bereuter	Engel	Kilpatrick
Berkley	English	Kind (WI)
Berman	Eshoo	King (NY)
Berry	Etheridge	Kingston
Biggert	Evans	Kleckzka
Bilbray	Everett	Klink
Bilirakis	Ewing	Knollenberg
Bishop	Farr	Kolbe
Blagojevich	Fattah	Kucinich
Bliley	Filner	Kuykendall
Blumenauer	Fletcher	LaFalce
Blunt	Foley	LaHood
Boehlert	Forbes	Lampson
Boehner	Ford	Lantos
Bonilla	Fossella	Largent
Bonior	Fowler	Larson
Bono	Frank (MA)	Latham
Borski	Franks (NJ)	LaTourette
Boswell	Frelighuyzen	Lazio
Boyd	Frost	Leach
Brady (PA)	Gallegly	Lee
Brady (TX)	Ganske	Levin
Brown (FL)	Gederson	Lewis (CA)
Brown (OH)	Gekas	Lewis (GA)
Bryant	Gephhardt	Lewis (KY)
Burr	Gibbons	Linder
Burton	Gilchrest	Lipinski
Buyer	Gillmor	LoBiondo
Callahan	Gilman	Lofgren
Calvert	Gonzalez	Lowey
Camp	Goode	Lucas (KY)
Canady	Goodlatte	Lucas (OK)
Cannon	Goodling	Luther
Capps	Gordon	Maloney (CT)
Capuano	Goss	Maloney (NY)
Cardin	Graham	Manzullo
Carson	Granger	Markey
Castle	Green (TX)	Martinez
Chabot	Green (WI)	Mascara
Chambliss	Greenwood	Matsui
Chenoweth	Gutknecht	McCarthy (MO)
Clay	Hall (OH)	McCarthy (NY)
Clayton	Hall (TX)	McCullom
Clement	Hansen	McCrary
Clyburn	Hastings (FL)	McGovern
Coble	Hastings (WA)	McHugh
Coburn	Hayes	McInnis
Collins	Hayworth	McIntosh
Combest	Hefley	McIntyre
Condit	Herger	McKeon
Cook	Hill (IN)	McNulty
Cooksey	Hill (MT)	Meehan
Costello	Hillery	Meek (FL)
Cox	Hilliard	Meeks (NY)
Coyne	Hinchey	Menendez
Cramer	Hinojosa	Metcalf
Crane	Hobson	Mica
Crowley	Hoefel	Millender-
Cubin	Hoekstra	McDonald
Cummings	Holden	Miller (FL)
Cunningham	Holt	Miller, Gary
Danner	Hooley	Miller, George
Davis (FL)	Horn	Minge
Davis (IL)	Houghton	Mink
Davis (VA)	Hoyer	Moakley
Deal	Hulshof	Mollohan
DeFazio	Hunter	Moore

RECORDED VOTE

The CHAIRMAN. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 13, noes 414, not voting 6, as follows:

Moran (KS) Rogan Sweeney
 Moran (VA) Rogers Talent
 Morella Ros-Lehtinen Tancredo
 Murtha Rothman Tanner
 Myrick Roukema Tauscher
 Nadler Roybal-Allard Tazin
 Napolitano Royce Taylor (NC)
 Neal Rush Terry
 Nethercutt Ryan (WI) Thomas
 Ney Ryun (KS) Thompson (CA)
 Northup Sabo Thornberry
 Norwood Salmon Thune
 Nussle Sanchez Thurman
 Oberstar Sanders Tiahrt
 Obey Sandlin Tierney
 Olver Sawyer Toomey
 Ortiz Saxton Towns
 Ose Scarborough Traficant
 Owens Schaffer Turner
 Oxley Schakowsky Udall (CO)
 Packard Scott Udall (NM)
 Pallone Serrano Upton
 Pascrell Sessions Velazquez
 Pastor Shadegg Vento
 Pease Shaw Visclosky
 Pelosi Shays Vitter
 Peterson (MN) Sherman Walden
 Petri Sherwood Walsh
 Phelps Shimkus Wamp
 Pickering Shows Waters
 Pickett Simpson Watkins
 Pitts Sisisky Watts (OK)
 Pombo Skeen Waxman
 Pomeroy Slaughter Weiner
 Porter Smith (MI) Weldon (FL)
 Portman Smith (NJ) Weldon (PA)
 Price (NC) Smith (TX) Weller
 Pryce (OH) Smith (WA) Wexler
 Quinn Snyder Weygand
 Radanovich Souder Whitfield
 Rahall Spence Wicker
 Ramstad Spratt Wilson
 Rangel Stabenow Wise
 Regula Stark Wolf
 Reyes Stearns Woolsey
 Reynolds Stenholm Wu
 Riley Strickland Wynn
 Rivers Stump Young (AK)
 Rodriguez Stupak Young (FL)
 Roemer Sununu

NOT VOTING—6

Barton McDermott Shuster
 Gutierrez Peterson (PA) Skelton

□ 2354

Ms. STABENOW, Mrs. CLAYTON, and Messrs. JACKSON of Illinois, SERRANO, BECERRA, SUNUNU, and RANGEL changed their vote from "aye" to "no."

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to House Resolution 263, the Chair announces that he will reduce to a minimum of 5 minutes the period of time within which a vote by electronic device will be taken on each amendment on which the Chair has postponed further proceedings.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. MOAKLEY

The CHAIRMAN. The pending business is the demand for a recorded vote on amendment No. 1 offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MOAKLEY) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The CHAIRMAN. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The CHAIRMAN. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 230, noes 197, not voting 6, as follows:

[Roll No. 352]

AYES—230

Abercrombie Hall (OH) Nussle Calvert Hobson
 Ackerman Hastings (FL) Oberstar Canady Hoekstra
 Allen Hayworth Obey Cannon Horn
 Andrews Heffley Olver Castle Hostettler
 Baird Hill (IN) Owens Cramer Chambliss Houghton
 Baldacci Hilliard Pallone Chenoweth Hoyer
 Berman Hulshof Hinchev Pascrell Cubin Roukema
 Biggert Inslée Pastor Cunningham Kingston
 Blagojevich Jackson (IL) Paul Davis (FL) Knollenberg
 Bocerra Holden Payne Davis (VA) Kolbe
 Bentsen Holt Pelosi Deal Kuykendall
 Berkley Hooley Peterson (MN) DeLay LaFalce
 Berman Hulshof Petri DeMint Latham
 Bono Johnson, E. B. Phelps Deutsch Lewis (CA) Smith (TX)
 Borski Jones (OH) Pomeroy Diaz-Balart Snyder
 Camp Kildey Porter Dickey Souder
 Campbell Kilpatrick Rush Linder
 Capps Kind (WI) Sabo Spence
 Capuano Kleczka Salmon Spratt
 Cardin Klink Sanchez Stearns
 Carson Kucinich Sanders Stenholm
 Chabot LaHood Sanford McCrery
 Clay Lampson Sawyer Mchugh
 Campion Kilpatrick Rush Sununu
 Cummings Levin Shays Sweeney
 Danner Lewis (GA) Sherman Thorneberry
 Davis (IL) Slaughter Thune
 DeFazio Lipinski Smith (MI) Martine
 DeGette LoBiondo Smith (NJ) Martinez
 Delahunt Lofgren Smith (WA) McCollum
 DeLauro Lucas (KY) Stark Nethercutt
 Dicks Luther Strickland Toomey
 Dixon Maloney (CT) Stupak Dreier
 Doggett Maloney (NY) Talent Quinn
 Dooley Manzullo Tancredo Quinn
 Doyle Markey Tauscher Dreier
 Duncan Mascara Taylor (NC) Gillmor
 Ehlers Matsui Thompson (CA) Northup
 Engel McCarthy (MO) Thompson (MS) Visclosky
 English McCarthy (NY) Thurman
 Eshoo McGovern Tierney
 Etheridge McInnis Towns
 Evans McKinney Traficant
 Ewing McNulty Udall (CO) Udall
 Farr Meehan Udall (NM)
 Fattah Meek (FL) Upton
 Filner Meeks (NY) Velazquez
 Foley Menendez Vento
 Forbes Metcalf Walsh
 Ford Millender Wamp
 Frank (MA) McDonald Waters
 Franks (NJ) Miller (FL) Watt (NC)
 Gejdenson Miller, George Waxman
 Gephhardt Minge Weiner
 Gibbons Mink Weller
 Gilchrist Moakley Wexler
 Gonzalez Moore Weygand
 Goode Moran (KS) Woolsey
 Gordon Moran (VA) Wu
 Green (TX) Morella Yawn
 Greenwood Nadler
 Gutknecht Neal

NOES—197

Aderholt Bass Bonilla
 Archer Bateman Boswell
 Arney Bereuter Boyd
 Bachus Berry Brady (TX)
 Baker Bilbray Bryant
 Ballenger Bilirakis Burr
 Barr Bishop Burton
 Barrett (NE) Bliley Buyer
 Bartlett Blunt Callahan

Calvert Hobson Reynolds
 Canady Hoekstra Riley
 Cannon Horn Rogan
 Castle Hostettler Rogers
 Chambliss Houghton Rohrabacher
 Chenoweth Hoyer Ros-Lehtinen
 Clyburn Hutchinson Roukema
 Coburn Hyde Roybal-Allard
 Collins Isakson Ryan (WI)
 Combest Istook Ryun (KS)
 Condit Jenkins Sandlin
 Cook John Sessions
 Cooksey John Jones (NC)
 Cox Johnson, Sam Shadegg
 Crane Kasich Shaw
 Cubin King (NY) Sherwood
 Cunningham Kingston Shimkus
 Davis (FL) Knollenberg Shows
 Davis (VA) Kolbe Simpson
 Deal Kuykendall Sisisky
 DeLay LaFalce Skeen
 DeMint Latham Smith (TX)
 Deutsch Lewis (CA) Snyder
 Diaz-Balart Lewis (KY) Souder
 Dickey Linder Spence
 Dingell Lucas (OK) Spratt
 Doolittle Martinez Stearns
 Pryce (OH) Quinn Stenholm
 Johnson (CT) Dunn McCrery
 Johnson, E. B. Ramstad Stump
 Jones (OH) Rangel Edwards
 Jones (OK) Kilpatrick McHugh
 Jones (WI) Campbell Mclntosh
 Jones (WA) Kilpatrick Sweeney
 Kaptur Rivers Emerson
 Kelly Rodriguez Fletcher
 Kennedy Roemer Mica
 Kildey Rothman Miller, Gary
 Kilpatrick Kilpatrick Terry
 Kind (WI) Rush Mollohan Thomas
 Kleczka Salmon Murtha
 Klink Sanchez Thorneberry
 Kucinich Sanders Visclosky
 LaHood Sanford
 Lampson Sawyer
 Lantos Scarborough
 Largent Schaffer
 Larson Schakowsky
 LaTourette Scott
 Camp Sensenbrenner
 Campion Serrano Granger
 Cummings Levin Shays
 Danner Lewis (GA) Green (WI)
 Davis (IL) Slaughter Hall (TX)
 DeFazio Lipinski Hansen
 DeGette LoBiondo Hastings (WA)
 Delahunt Lofgren Hayes
 DeLauro Lucas (KY) Herger
 Dicks Luther Stark Hill (MT)
 Dixon Maloney (CT) Strickland Hilleary
 Doggett Maloney (NY) Stupak
 Dooley Manzullo Talent
 Doyle Markey Tancredo
 Duncan Mascara Tauscher
 Ehlers Matsui Taylor (NC)
 Engel McCarthy (MO) Thompson (CA)
 English McCarthy (NY) Thompson (MS)
 Eshoo McGovern Thurman
 Etheridge McInnis Tierney
 Evans McKinney Traficant
 Ewing McNulty Udall (CO)
 Farr Meehan Udall (NM)
 Fattah Meek (FL) Upton
 Filner Meeks (NY) Velazquez
 Foley Menendez Vento
 Forbes Metcalf Walsh
 Ford Millender Wamp
 Frank (MA) McDonald Waters
 Franks (NJ) Miller (FL) Watt (NC)
 Gejdenson Miller, George Waxman
 Gephhardt Minge Weiner
 Gibbons Mink Weller
 Gilchrist Moakley Wexler
 Gonzalez Moore Weygand
 Goode Moran (KS) Woolsey
 Gordon Moran (VA) Wu
 Green (TX) Morella Yawn
 Greenwood Nadler
 Gutknecht Neal

NOT VOTING—6

Barton McDermott Shuster
 Gutierrez Peterson (PA) Skelton

□ 0003

Mr. HOYER changed his vote from "aye" to "no."

Mr. HILL of Indiana and Mrs. BONO changed their vote from "no" to "aye."

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MR. PITTS

The CHAIRMAN. The pending business is the demand for a recorded vote on Part B Amendment No. 3 offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 187, noes 237, not voting 9, as follows:

[Roll No. 353]

AYES—187

Aderholt Hall (TX) Petri
 Archer Hansen Phelps
 Armey Hastings (WA) Pickering
 Bachus Hayes Pitts
 Baker Hayworth Pombo
 Ballenger Hefley Portman
 Barcia Herger Quinn
 Barr Hill (MT) Radanovich
 Barrett (NE) Hilleary Rahall
 Bartlett Hoekstra Reynolds
 Bilirakis Holden Riley
 Bliley Hostettler Rogan
 Blunt Hulshof Rogers
 Boehner Hunter Rohrabacher
 Bonilla Hutchinson Royce
 Bono Hyde Ryan (WI)
 Brady (TX) Istook Ryan (KS)
 Bryant Jenkins Salmon
 Burr John Sanford
 Burton Johnson, Sam Saxton
 Buyer Jones (NC) Scarborough
 Callahan Kasich Schaffer
 Calvert Kildee Sensenbrenner
 Camp King (NY) Sessions
 Canady Kingston Shadegg
 Cannon Knollenberg Sherwood
 Chabot LaFalce Shimkus
 Chambliss LaHood Shows
 Chenoweth Largent Smith (NJ)
 Coble Latham Smith (TX)
 Coburn Lewis (KY) Souder
 Collins Linder Spence
 Combest Lipinski Stearns
 Cook LoBiondo Stenholm
 Costello Lucas (KY) Stump
 Cox Lucas (OK) Stupak
 Crane Manzullo Sununu
 Cunningham Mascara Talent
 Deal McCollum Tancredo
 DeLay McCrery Tazin
 DeMint McHugh Taylor (MS)
 Dickey McIntosh Taylor (NC)
 Doolittle McIntyre Terry
 Dreier McKeon Thornberry
 Duncan Metcalf Thune
 Ehlers Mica Tiahrt
 Emerson Miller (FL) Toomey
 English Miller, Gary Traficant
 Everett Mollohan Vitter
 Ewing Moran (KS) Walsh
 Fletcher Murtha Wamp
 Forbes Myrick Watkins
 Fossella Nethercutt Watts (OK)
 Franks (NJ) Ney Weldon (FL)
 Gekas Northup Weldon (PA)
 Goode Norwood Weller
 Goodlatte Nussle Whitfield
 Goodling Ortiz Wicker
 Goss Oxley Wolf
 Graham Packard Young (AK)
 Green (WI) Paul Young (FL)
 Gutknecht Pease Peterson (MN)

NOES—237

Abercrombie Capps Doyle
 Ackerman Capuano Dunn
 Allen Cardin Edwards
 Andrews Carson Ehrlich
 Baird Castle Engel
 Baldacci Clay Etheridge
 Baldwin Clayton Evans
 Barrett (WI) Clement Farr
 Bass Clyburn Fattah
 Bateman Condit Fattah
 Becerra Conyers Filner
 Bentsen Cooksey Foley
 Bereuter Coyne Fowler
 Berkley Cramer Frank (MA)
 Berman Crowley Frelinghuysen
 Berry Cummings Frost
 Biggert Danner Gallegly
 Bilbray Davis (FL) Ganske
 Bishop Davis (IL) Gejdenson
 Blagojevich Davis (VA) Gephart
 Blumenauer DeFazio Gibbons
 Boehlert DeGette Gilcrest
 Bonior Delahunt Gillmor
 Borski DeLauro Gilman
 Boswell Deutsch Gonzalez
 Boucher Diaz-Balart Gordon
 Boyd Dicks Granger
 Brady (PA) Dingell Green (TX)
 Brown (FL) Dixon Greenwood
 Brown (OH) Doggett Hastings (FL)
 Campbell Dooley Hill (IN)

Hilliard McCarthy (NY)
 Hinchey Hobson McKinney
 Hinjosa Hoeffel McNulty
 Holt Meehan Meeks (FL)
 Hooley Houghton Menendez
 Horn Hoyer Millender-
 Inslee Isakson McDonald
 Jackson (IL) Miller, George
 Jackson-Lee Minge Slaughter
 (TX) Riley Mink Smith (MI)
 Jefferson Moakley Smith (WA)
 Johnson (CT) Moran (VA)
 Johnson, E. B. Morella Stabenow
 Jones (OH) Nadler Stark
 Kanjorski Napolitano Strickland
 Kaptur Neal Sweeney
 Kelly Oberstar Tanner
 Kennedy Obey Tauscher
 Kilpatrick Olver Thomas
 Kind (WI) Ose Thompson (CA)
 Kleczka Owens Thompson (MS)
 Klink Pallone Thurman
 Kolbe Pascrell Tierney
 Kucinich Pastor Towns
 Kuykendall Lampson Payne
 Lantos Pickett Udall (CO)
 Larson Pomeroy Udall (NM)
 LaTourette Porter Upton
 Lazio Price (NC) Velazquez
 Leach Pryce (OH) Vento
 Lee Ramstad Visclosky
 Levin Rangel Walden
 Lewis (CA) Regula Waters
 Lewis (GA) Reyes Waxman
 Lofgren Rivers Weiner
 Lowey Rodriguez Wexler
 Luther Roemer Weygand
 Maloney (CT) Ros-Lehtinen Wilson
 Maloney (NY) Rothman Wise
 Markey Roukema Woolsey
 Martinez Roybal-Allard Wu
 Matsui Sabo Wynn
 McCarthy (MO) Sanchez

NOT VOTING—9

Barton Gutierrez Rush
 Cubin McDermott Shuster
 Ford Peterson (PA) Skelton

□ 0011

So the amendment was rejected.
 The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD) having assumed the chair, Mr. THORNBERRY, Chairman of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2606) making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

AN HONEST DEMOCRAT IN THE SENATE

(Mr. LARGENT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks and include therein extraneous material.)

Mr. LARGENT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to read some quotes from one of our senator colleagues in the Senate, a Democrat from the State of Nebraska. He said this:

I recently voted with Republican colleagues for a sensible and realistic tax cut.

We are projected to run a \$2.9 trillion surplus over the next 10 years, and I strongly believe that we should return part of that money to hard-working Americans. This tax cut will provide Americans with broad-based tax relief and aim squarely at the middle class. To suggest that we cannot afford to cut income taxes when we are running a \$3 trillion surplus is ludicrous.

This coming from a Democrat.

To say that tax cuts stand in the way of needed domestic spending, Medicare, and debt relief is also folly. What is standing in the way of debt reduction and a shrinking discretionary spending budget is a refusal to make structural reforms to our entitlement programs.

Mr. Speaker, this comes from a Democrat colleague in the Senate who happened to be one of the co-chairs of the Social Security Reform Committee, and I think when a Democrat is honest that we should tip our hat to him.

[From The Washington Post, July 27, 1999]
 WHY I CROSSED PARTY LINES ON THE TAX CUT

(By Bob Kerrey)

As a member of the Senate Finance Committee, I recently crossed party lines to vote with my Republican colleagues for a sensible and realistic tax cut. We are projected to run a \$2.9 trillion surplus over the next 10 years, and I strongly believe that we should return part of that money to hard-working Americans.

This tax cut will provide Americans with broad-based tax relief aimed squarely at the middle class. Not only will it encourage Americans to save more for their retirements, it will also encourage Americans to give more generously to charities.

I am proud to have participated in and voted for three budget acts—in 1990, 1993 and 1997—which have radically altered the fiscal condition of the federal government and the debate about how the public's hard-earned tax dollars should be spent. After the enactment of these three budget acts—particularly the 1993 and 1997 budget acts—and on account of impressive gains in private-sector productivity and growth, we were able to reverse the deficit trend.

Deficits have continued to shrink since 1994—and we were able to celebrate our first unified budget surplus (counting Social Security surpluses) of \$70 billion last year. The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) is now projecting surpluses of \$2.9 trillion over the next 10 years.

Since 1983 working Americans have been forced to shoulder a disproportionate amount of deficit reduction by paying larger-than-necessary payroll (FICA) taxes. Now they are being asked to shoulder a disproportionate share of debt reduction. I strongly believe that a portion of these surpluses should be returned to the American people.

To put it in another context: If, over the next 10 years, Congress projected a balanced budget and I proposed a \$3 trillion tax increase, people would call it ridiculous. To suggest we can't afford to cut income taxes when we are running a \$3 trillion surplus is just as ludicrous.

To say that tax cuts stand in the way of needed domestic spending, Medicare and debt relief is also folly. What is standing in the way of debt reduction and a shrinking discretionary spending budget is our refusal to make structural reforms to our entitlement programs.

In 1970 entitlement spending accounted for only 35 percent of federal spending. By 2010, it will account for nearly 70 percent of federal spending. During the same period, discretionary spending will have fallen from 58