

School in Chattanooga, Tennessee, this next semester as Headmaster. He will leave behind many parents and students who have been touched forever by his work, as I say, both spiritually, educationally, in so many ways. We wish him well and take great pleasure and celebrate all that he has done for St. Patrick's and the many students and parishioners that attend therein.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FOLEY). The Chair will entertain 15 one-minutes on each side.

NEW DOCUMENTARY FEATURES MEMBER AS HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, a new documentary by renowned filmmaker Steven Spielberg, entitled "The Last Days," tells the tragic tale of the Nazi Holocaust through the eyes of five Hungarian Jews who personally experienced and survived this horrific period of history.

One of the survivors featured in the documentary is one of the most articulate Members of Congress, our colleague from California, TOM LANTOS. TOM is one of the five Hungarian Jews who describes their experiences in a Nazi war camp. Fortunately, unlike an estimated 438,000 other Hungarian Jews and millions of other Jews in Europe, our colleague was able to escape his death sentence.

It is to TOM's credit that, decades after his experience with totalitarianism, he has not forgotten those around the world who live under repressive regimes. From China to Cuba, TOM gives voice to those who are forced to remain silent by repressive regimes. I urge all of our colleagues to view "The Last Days" to remind ourselves that we must always fight against tyranny.

UNVEILING 1999 DEMOCRATIC AGENDA

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I am very proud to say that in just a short period of time over at the Library of Congress, President Clinton, Vice President GORE and Democrats in the House and the Senate will unveil our 1999 Democratic agenda which, once again, is a families first agenda. The centerpiece of our congressional agenda is to invest the surplus, to save Social Security and Medicare and pay down the debt.

What Democrats are doing with this agenda is continuing on the path of fiscal responsibility by investing the sur-

plus to save Social Security and Medicare and pay down the debt to keep our economy growing. With regard to Social Security, we reserve 62 percent of the projected budget surplus to preserve Social Security until 2055. With regard to Medicare, we reserve 15 percent of the projected surplus for Medicare, ensuring that the Medicare trust fund is secure for 20 years.

We are paying down the debt, Mr. Speaker. We are investing a total of 77 percent of the surplus in Social Security and Medicare to reduce the national debt to its lowest level since 1917. This is what the Democrats are all about.

MAKING TAX RELIEF A REALITY

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

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, the American people are overtaxed. Americans work almost 3 hours every 8-hour workday just to pay their taxes. Federal taxes, State taxes, income taxes, sales taxes, utility taxes, death taxes and on and on.

But what many folks do not realize is that they are paying way too much. The government is charging the American people more than it needs to pay its bills, an estimated \$2.6 trillion over the next 10 years of tax overcharge. That is a whopping \$27,000 per family, money those families could put forward to buy a home or pay for their children's college.

Mr. Speaker, no one would tolerate a phone company or cable company that overcharged them and then refused to return the money. Indeed, we would all call upon the government for relief. Yet the government is overcharging the American taxpayer. It is time they knew about it.

Mr. and Mrs. America, help is on the way. Today I will announce a national initiative designed to make tax relief a reality. I will be joined by many colleagues who, like myself, are committed to showing that Americans are overtaxed. We are united in the belief that we can both save Social Security and return a portion of the overcharge to Americans in the form of a tax cut.

Mr. Speaker, that money does not belong to the government. It belongs to the American taxpayers. Americans earned it, Americans paid it, Americans deserve a refund. Return the tax overcharge, and the American people will be treated properly and fairly by this government.

1999 DEMOCRATIC AGENDA

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

Ms. DELAUR. Mr. Speaker, today Democrats from both Chambers will unveil our agenda for the 106th Congress. At the top of that agenda are the two pillars of retirement security, So-

cial Security and Medicare. So that there can be no doubt about our priorities, I will state it loud and clear. Democrats are committed to using the lion's share of the Federal surplus to protect Social Security and Medicare well into the future.

For the first time in three decades, the Federal Government has a surplus. This is a historic opportunity to protect Social Security and Medicare so that our seniors can live independently and with dignity. Protecting Social Security and Medicare is sound fiscal planning. Two-thirds of our seniors rely on Social Security for over one-half of their income. Medicare ensures that 99 percent of our seniors have health insurance. These two programs are paramount to a strong and a vibrant America and should come before a 10 percent tax cut that benefits mostly the wealthy. The surplus must be used carefully, not spent irresponsibly on a one-time, feel-good tax break.

On behalf of our peers and our parents and our children, let us not squander this historic opportunity.

PRESIDENT'S BUDGET DOES NOT ADD UP

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

Mr. SCHAFER. Mr. Speaker, the Congressional Budget Office, or the CBO, has issued a report confirming what everyone in Washington has known for 1 month now. The President's budget does not add up.

The nonpartisan CBO has carefully documented exactly why the President's budget does not do what it says it does. The numbers in his budget are not even close. The spending caps are busted. Social Security is endangered. The surpluses are not what they appear to be.

The administration has no response to this nonpartisan report. Through slick accounting and deception, the budget looks wonderful on paper. The problem is that there is not an economist to be found who can defend it. The double counting of imaginary money and the shifting of funds make a mockery of the budget promises signed into law just 2 years ago in the bipartisan balanced budget agreement. That agreement was supposed to prevent exactly the kind of budgetary chicanery that is contained in the President's budget.

The American people deserve better, Mr. Speaker.

THE ONLY SURPLUS IN WASHINGTON

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, who is kidding whom? The only surplus in Washington, D.C., is in the Social Security trust fund. The truth is, Social

Security money coming in one door today is going out the other door tomorrow, because the facts are very clear. The Social Security trust fund is a big basket full of IOUs. The reason is very simple: Politicians from both parties have reached in and borrowed money from the Social Security trust fund and have not repaid it. Billions and billions of dollars. Beam me up. Now we are saying Social Security is going to run out of money. I say not one dime of Social Security should be used for anything but Social Security.

I yield back any economic common sense that may be left down here.

THE SURPLUS BELONGS TO THE TAXPAYERS

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I have a simple question to ask. To whom does the surplus belong? Anyone listening to the other side would conclude that the surplus belongs to the government. In speech after speech, I have heard implied that politicians in Washington have the first claim to the money as if it is their money.

The surplus belongs to the taxpayers. It is their money. The surplus is in fact nothing more than tax overpayment made by taxpayers.

Anyone who has ever looked at Washington for any length of time knows that one of only two things will happen to the surplus. We can give it back to the people who earned it or Washington will find a way to spend it.

I think Jesse "The Body" Ventura was right. The government should apologize and then refund the money back to the people to whom it belongs in the first place, the taxpayers of America.

ANOTHER VIEW ON SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE

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

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, let me set the record straight. The money that comes in here belongs to the American people. But what we fail to deal with is the history.

All during the Reagan administration, Democrats and Republicans in this House spent Social Security money and used it like a credit card. We built up a \$5 trillion debt for the Cold War. Now, after almost 10 years of work, since I have been in the Congress, since 1988 and under Mr. Clinton for the last few years, we have got a surplus. What does the majority leader offer us? Let us take the surplus and give it away and leave that credit card debt there.

No American family, when they receive money in a Christmas bonus or whatever, says, "Well, we got all this

credit card debt; let's go get deeper in debt." That would not be a financially prudent family. The United States Congress, acting on behalf of the American people, ought to pay off the credit card debt in Medicare and in Social Security.

CONGRATULATING COACH JIM PHELAN AND MOUNT ST. MARY'S MOUNTAINEERS ON EARNING BID TO NCAA BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

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

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate coach Jim Phelan and the Mount St. Mary's Mountaineers on earning a bid to the NCAA basketball championship for only the second time in their school's history.

The Mounties won the right to go to the Big Dance by defeating the Blue Devils of Central Connecticut State on Monday night by a 72-56 margin. Monday night's victory was the third straight upset for the Mountaineers who were seeded sixth entering the Northeast Conference Tournament. The Mount was led by the smooth shooting of Gregory Harris and the tenacious defense of Melvin Whitaker.

In addition to earning a right to play in the NCAA championships, Monday's victory was also an historic event for their longtime coach. Jim Phelan became only the fourth coach in NCAA history to win 800 games. He joins the ranks of Adolph Rupp, Dean Smith and Clarence Gaines and is the winningest active coach in the NCAA. Coach Phelan's 800 wins demonstrate his commitment to the school, his players and his community. I am convinced the Hall of Fame is just around the corner.

Congratulations Mount Saint Mary's, and congratulations Coach Jim Phelan.

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GUNS OVER PEOPLE

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

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, during the past year did we not hear the Republicans say something about the rule of law? I think I recall some Republicans saying everyone deserves his or her day in court, even if it means tying up Congress, the White House and the judiciary, costs the taxpayers \$40 million, huge legal bills for everyone. But when it comes to their good friends in the gun lobby and their precious time and money, well, the Republicans simply will not allow them to be threatened with a lawsuit or held accountable through civil action.

Mr. Speaker, once again the GOP does the bidding of the National Rifle Association, preempting cities like Chicago who dare to sue the gun indus-

try, the modern-day merchants of vengeance. A Republican bill will be introduced limiting lawsuits against the gun makers, ironically sponsored by the same gentleman who once told the Committee on the Judiciary a plaintiff deserved her day in court. In the eyes of the GOP, a sitting President can be dragged into a civil suit, but not the gun industry.

Clearly, the Republicans care more about guns than people. I guess that is what GOP stands for: "Guns Over People."

THE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET DOES NOT ADD UP

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

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, the truth is now out about the President's budget. The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, the CBO, has now documented the obvious. The President's budget just does not add up.

It is not simply a case of the usual Washington accounting tricks. The accounting is so outrageous that no serious analyst can defend it. In fact, the nonpartisan CBO, Congressional Budget Office, shows exactly where and why it does not add up. The budget busts the spending caps that were signed into law by the President in 1997, in the summer of 1997. And even more disturbing, Mr. Speaker, this budget, not only does it not save Social Security, it even dangers Social Security.

Mr. Speaker, the American people deserve better.

They deserve an honest budget.

They deserve a budget that will continue American prosperity.

They deserve a budget that protects Social Security.

Mr. Speaker, the President's budget does not do that.

PROTECT SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

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

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support a Democratic administration that has brought us from very large deficits to large surpluses and to say that the next step is to protect Social Security and Medicare and pay back the Social Security Trust Fund. We are not really out of debt until we do that.

Mr. Speaker, if we cannot pay off the national debt when we have a surplus, when will we do it?

Never.

Mr. Speaker, this is a test of the current Congress. Are we going to continue fiscal responsibility or go back to the spending and the deficits of the 1980s?

I stand to support Social Security, Medicare and paying off the debt. If we