

I am first to say that this would not get each and every one off, whether it be 5,000 or 11,000 on food stamps, but what it would say to those men and women in uniform, we care about you. And, yes, we need to do more. At this point, this is the best that we can do.

Mr. Speaker, I am first to say that, yes, it would be nice if we could raise the salaries of those in the military so no one would ever be on food stamps, but that is not possible. Who is to say that 2 or 3 years from now we might not have any extra money to give any increases to those in our military?

I bring this picture, this happens to be a Marine, it could be a member of the Air Force or the Army or the Navy, I bring this Marine to the floor of the House, because this Marine represents all married men and women in uniform.

You can see standing on his feet it happens to be his daughter Megan. In his arms, he is holding his daughter Bridgett. And I look at this photograph, and I see this little girl's look. Of course, she is looking at the camera. But I am thinking, this little girl does not know this, but possibly her daddy might not come back from deployment. Hopefully, he will.

But each and every time our men and women in uniform go overseas, no matter where it might be, there is always that possibility that they might not come back. So I want to say to my colleagues, both Democrat and Republican, I want to thank those first who have signed the bill. Again, we are somewhere around 90 Members who have signed the bill.

I want to say to my colleagues on both sides of the aisle that I think it is unacceptable. I think it is deplorable that any man or woman in uniform who is willing to die for this country should be in the need of WIC, the WIC program or food stamps.

I will be sending out a dear colleague letter this coming week, and I hope that my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will sign with me on this bill, H.R. 1055. It is only a modest step forward, but it is a step forward for those in uniform on food stamps.

□

STEM CELL RESEARCH HELPS US FURTHER UNDERSTAND CERTAIN MEDICAL CONDITIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY of New York) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, last week, there was a hearing before the Subcommittee on Health and the Environment of the Committee on Commerce concerning fetal tissue. Though the hearing was purported to be about alleged abuses involving fetal tissue for medical research, I believe it was an attempt by antichoice Members to try to stop lifesaving research involving fetal tissue and stem cells.

Mr. Speaker, I have introduced House Resolution 414 in a bipartisan manner

with the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA) and many others to allow Federal funding of human pluripotent stem cell research to help us further understand Parkinson's Disease and other medical conditions.

I am asking for no specific amount of money nor to direct disease-specific research. I am only asking that Federal money be allowed to be used to utilize the next best chance science has to not only treat, but to cure debilitating and life-threatening illnesses that afflict millions of Americans.

Many people have been confusing human pluripotent stem cell research with human embryo research. Stem cells are not embryos. There is now a ban on the use of Federal funds for human embryo research in the United States. Stem cells cannot develop into a complete human being and therefore, under the law, they are not embryos. Stem cells are a type of cell that can be turned into almost any type of cell or tissue in the body. With further research, these cells can be used as replacement cells and tissues to treat many diseases, including Parkinson's Disease, Alzheimer's, Diabetes, AIDS, Lou Gehrig's Disease, and many others.

Stem cell research holds hope of one day being able to treat brain injury, spinal cord injury and stroke for which there is currently no treatment available. They may solve the problem of the body's reaction to foreign tissue, resulting in dramatic improvements in the treatment of a number of life-threatening conditions, such as burns and kidney failure, for which transplantation is currently used.

Mr. Speaker, my resolution, House Resolution 414, discusses Parkinson's Disease in particular for many reasons. My family has been personally affected by this devastating illness, and I am proud to serve as cochair of the congressional working group on Parkinson's Disease. However, it is science that makes the best argument to lead with this disease.

With all that is already known about Parkinson's Disease, it is believed that with Federal funds and stem cell research, it is very possible that Parkinson's Disease could not only be treatable, but curable within as little as 5 years.

Dr. Gerald Fischbach, the Director of the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, said last year in the Senate, and I quote, "I concur that we are close to solving, and I mean the word 'solving,' Parkinson's Disease. I hesitate to put an actual year or number on it. I think with all the intensive effort, with a little bit of skill and luck, 5 to 10 years is not unrealistic. We will do everything possible to reduce that below 5 years. I would not rule that out."

Mr. Speaker, here is why that is possible. Parkinson's Disease is a progressive degenerative brain disease which kills a specialized and vital type of brain cell, a cell which produces the substance dopamine, that is essential

for normal development and balance. The loss of these dopamine-producing cells causes symptoms, including slowness and paucity of movement, tremors, stiffness and difficulty walking and balancing, which makes the sufferer unable to carry out the normal activities of daily living.

In 30 percent of the cases, those symptoms include dementia. As the disease progresses, it inflicts horrific physical, emotional, and financial burdens on the patient and family, requiring the care-giver to assist in the activities of daily living and may eventually lead to placement in a nursing home until death. With further research into stem cells, scientists will be able to reprogram the stem cells into the dopamine-producing cells which are lost in Parkinson's Disease.

Parkinson's Disease affects at least 1 million Americans. Fifty thousand are diagnosed each year, and for every one diagnosed, two who have Parkinson's Disease are not diagnosed. It is alarming to think that 2 million Americans with Parkinson's Disease are undiagnosed. Parkinson's Disease costs the Federal Government approximately \$10 billion in health care costs and, on an average, the cost per patient is 5,000 per year.

As a society, we spend \$15 billion a year on Parkinson's disease and that is only in direct costs for treatments that only bring temporary relief.

Building on the technology developed from research on Parkinson's disease makes treatments and even cures possible for many conditions. These include Alzheimer's, diabetes, AIDS, Lou Gehrig's, brain injury, spinal cord injury, stroke, and problems with the body's reaction to foreign tissue.

It may even provide for safer and more effective ways to test drugs without experimenting on humans and animals.

We cannot allow the opportunities afforded us by stem cell research to go untapped!

The National Institutes of Health has proposed guidelines to human stem cell research to address the legal and ethical issues surrounding this particular type of research.

It is being approached in a responsible way to utilize the technology while being sensitive to the ethical questions raised.

The National Bioethics Advisory Commission (NBAC) even felt they could have gone further and is very supportive of allowing this type of research to continue with Federal funding.

The NBAC points out that Federally funding this research will allow Federal oversight to ensure this type of research continues ethically.

And finally, the American people support stem cell research as shown by a nationwide survey conducted by Opinion Research Corporation International last year that found that 74% of those polled favored funding of stem cell research by NIH.

Federal funds are crucial to allow scientists to proceed with stem cell research and to exploit fully this novel, innovative, and groundbreaking technology.

□

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Under a previous order of the

House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PAUL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. PAUL addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

□

RESPONSIBLY MANAGING OUR NATION'S DEBT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. MINGE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. MINGE. Mr. Speaker, this evening I wish to address this body with respect to the problem of our Nation's debt and how we responsibly handle this debt in a time of budget surpluses. We are indeed fortunate as Americans to have the robust economy that we have experienced over the last 8 years. It is unprecedented. We have had the strongest sustained period of economic growth in the 220 year history of the United States of America.

At the same time, we have a record debt. I would like to begin my remarks by sharing with my colleagues an anecdotal story that is commonly used in my home State of Minnesota and it refers to two fictitious individuals named Oley and Lena. I happen to be of Scandinavian ancestry and one of my grandfathers was named Oley, so I do not know if it is my grandfather, but in any event, the story goes as follows.

Oley got up one morning and Oley went outside to do his business in the outhouse. And as he pulled up his bib overalls, a couple of quarters fell out of his pocket and down into the hole. Well, Oley was disgusted. He took out his wallet, took off his watch and he threw them down the hole as well. Oley went back in the house and did not have much to say and Lena said after a while, well, Oley, what is wrong? Why do you not talk to me?

□ 1945

Olie just said, humph. She kept pressing him. Finally, Olie shared with his wife Lena the account of what had happened out at the outhouse.

Lena said, well, Olie that was a dumb thing to do. Why did you throw your watch and wallet down the hole? Olie said to Lena, well, you did not expect me to go down after 50 cents, did you?

Well, this may be humorous and it may appeal to grade school children; but on the other hand, it holds a certain kernel of truth with respect to the problems that we face out here.

We struggle with the losses that we have had as Americans, the losses in terms of an enormous national debt. We try to figure out what to do about it. Sometimes we think that by creating a little bit more debt and then going down and rescuing what we just created that maybe we have solved the overall problem. But I submit that is not the case. A lot like Olie, we go back into the house, and there is a certain order to us, and we really do not

have any more to show than before we started.

I would like to just use a couple of charts here to illustrate this problem with the accumulating national debt, and then I know I have some colleagues here; and I would like to make sure that they join in the colloquy here this evening and that we fully inform the other Members of this body as to the gravity of the situation and the opportunities that await us.

This first chart shows the accumulation of the debt that we have at the Federal level in the United States. This goes back to 1980 when the debt was approximately \$1 trillion, which would be about \$4,000 at that time for every man, woman, and child in our country.

As my colleagues can see, there is a tremendous amount of red ink. By the time we get to 1998, the debt has exploded to \$5 trillion. It has expanded by more than 500 percent. Now it is up to about \$5.7 trillion, or about \$20,000 for every man, woman, and child in our country.

So it is important for us as Americans to understand that, when we talk about a balanced budget, it does not mean there is no debt. Indeed, the debt is unprecedented. When we think of \$20,000 for every man, woman, and child in our country, we are talking about a very serious situation. It is not just the humor of an Olie and Lena story.

It is important for us to understand the difference between the words "debt" and "deficit." This next chart shows the birth and the sort of the difference between the debt and the deficit. Now, remember that we had that \$5.7 trillion debt. The deficit is how much we have gone into debt each year. It is an annual figure.

Again, if we go back to, in this case, we are going back to the 1970s, 1969, we had a little bit of a surplus. That was in President Johnson's administration. Then in the 1970s, during President Nixon, we have some losses. We see the yellow. During President Ford's administration with the green, we have some more losses. President Carter's administration, now we can call it red ink. It is getting red. During President Reagan's administration, we have an enormous amount of red ink. During President Bush's administration, we can see the turquoise.

So these are deficits. Each year we are accumulating more debt. That is what leads to the \$5.8 trillion we talked about.

Here is President Clinton coming in. We can see that we have a large deficit the first 4 years. The fifth year, it is a fairly modest size deficit. Then finally we begin to show some surpluses here in 1999 and 2000.

So this talk about a surplus has to be understood against the fact that we have an existing \$5.7 trillion debt. We cannot be confused by the difference between the debt and the deficit. It is kind of like, Mr. Speaker, we have got to go back to budgeting 101.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. STENHOLM) to continue

our discussion because there are many more developments here that are important for us to consider if we are going to do a responsible job as Members of Congress in developing a budget for the year 2001.

Mr. STENHOLM. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. MINGE) for yielding to me. I thank him for his leadership on the budget and for his calling this special order tonight to talk about deficits and debt.

The Blue Dog budget that will be hopefully eligible or allowed to be considered tomorrow is one in which we emphasize paying down the debt. We are going to hear a lot of rhetoric perhaps later tonight, and I know we will tomorrow, about surpluses.

One thing that everyone needs to understand, Mr. Speaker, is when we are talking about \$4 trillion in projected surpluses, they are projected. The lion's share of those surpluses are projected to occur in 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010. Now, who among us can predict tomorrow much less predict 5 years, 6 years, 7 years from now?

That is why the Blue Dogs have taken the position for the last 2 years that the conservative thing to do with projected surpluses is to apply as much of them to our debt as we can. That is the conservative thing to do just in case they do not materialize.

That is why we have suggested that any non-Social Security, and let me emphasize that because the record will clearly show that both sides of the aisle are now dedicated to not touching Social Security surpluses or Social Security trust funds, and that is good. That is positive. It is the non-Social Security Trust Fund or surpluses or dollars yet to be achieved that we are talking about.

Just for rounding off purposes tonight, we are talking about \$2 trillion. Many people are going to contend that that is your money, meaning the American people's money; and, therefore, it ought to be returned to you. But some of us will be contending that it is also your debt.

There are charts that the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. MINGE) has just shown, the one that stands to his right right now showing the build up of the debt and then the building of the debt and showing that we now owe approximately \$5.6 trillion.

Now I ask all of you who are so exuberant about a tax cut so we might return it to those of you earning it today, what about your children and grandchildren? Why not take this longest sustained economic expansion in the history of our country that has occurred in the last 7 years, why not take this period in which a lot of folks are doing very, very well and use this opportunity to pay down some of that debt which this generation has built up?

That is the message that we are going to continue to hammer on. We think it makes sense. We think it is the conservative thing to do. We do not