

of touch with the needs and the values of middle class families. Even conservative members of their own party claim that the GOP budget is too spendthrift.

The Republican budget is a reckless plan that fails to extend the life of Social Security and Medicare by even one day. Instead of strengthening these pillars of retirement security, the Republican budget spends the surplus on \$250 billion in tax cuts for the wealthiest people in this country. It is irresponsible, and it is wrong.

The Democrats have provided an alternative which strengthens and preserves Social Security and Medicare, provides targeted tax cuts to working middle class families who need it the most, provides a prescription drug benefit for all seniors, focuses on education and lowering class size and increasing discipline and accountability and standards. We can do this and still lower the national debt, lower the interest rates, and provide that targeted tax cut relief to the middle class.

The American people deserve a budget that is responsible and that is fair, not what has been concocted by the Republican leadership.

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#### ENFORCEMENT OF OBSCENITY LAWS NEEDED

(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, pornographers in this country make more money than rock and country music combined. Pornographers bring in more dollars in a year than all Broadway productions, all theater shows, all ballet, jazz and classical music combined. And this administration is doing almost nothing about it.

The Supreme Court has ruled that obscenity is not protected by the First Amendment. Federal law prohibits interstate transportation and distribution of obscenity. But since 1992, prosecutions for interstate distribution and sale of illegal pornography are down 75 percent. In all of 1997, there were only six prosecutions by all 93 U.S. Attorneys.

The cause and effect between pornography and crime, violence against women and children, rape and child abuse, is clearly established. The President and the Department of Justice should enforce the law, not ignore it.

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#### AN IRRESPONSIBLE BUDGET

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

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the budget. The Republican budget contains tax breaks for the wealthy while ignoring working Americans, which I think is irresponsible. It is not a fiscally oriented budget that looks toward the future.

It contains deep cuts in domestic spending. The Republican budget would cut FBI agents and Drug Enforcement agents, college scholarships, air traffic controllers, and programs for women and children.

By contrast, the Democratic plan invests in education, our future in preparing our working force for the 21st Century. It reduces class sizes, protects our senior citizens, builds schools, provides college scholarships, provides affordable drug prescriptions, preserves Social Security and Medicare and pays down the deficit in a responsible manner before spending and emptying the bank account.

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The Democratic plan looks toward the future and a sensible, balanced tax relief. It is an investment in support and strength of our Social Security and Medicare, and it pays off the debt. It provides everyone with an opportunity to succeed and work hard. It provides our children, our senior citizens who are less fortunate.

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#### PORKER OF THE WEEK AWARD

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

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, last week the world watched as five cloned piglets were introduced before an international news core. Scientists cheered the achievement as a scientific and medical breakthrough. Maybe the American people should have cheered as well since we paid for a good bit of that research with \$2 million of our tax dollars.

The Advanced Technology Program, a corporate welfare program managed by the Department of Commerce, gave a grant to the company responsible for cloning the piglets. The company, PPL Therapeutics, claims it needs taxpayer assistance because it cannot find private backing for cloning research. It will certainly be interesting to see if that company shares its profits with the American taxpayers now that they have found success.

In this modern-day nursery rhyme, five little piggies got cloned, and the American public got taken to market. The ATP gets my "Porker of the Week" Award.

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#### BUDGET AND DEBT REDUCTION

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

Mr. SHOWS. Mr. Speaker, I want to talk about the upcoming budget debate and the opportunity we have to pay off our debt.

Did my colleagues know that reducing our national debt would provide a tax cut in itself to millions of Americans because it will restrain and lower interest rates? Did my colleagues know that more than 25 percent of our indi-

vidual income taxes go to paying off interest on our national debt? We can greatly restructure our budget and get our real tax savings to America if we pay off the debt now.

Did my colleagues know that more than \$1.2 trillion is held by foreign investors? In 1998, the U.S. Government paid \$91 billion in interest payments to these foreign investors.

We must reduce this drain and create a stronger global economy for American business and agriculture.

This is the right thing to do. Let us give our children a strong America. Let us pay off the national debt. I urge everyone to take an honest look at the Blue Dog Coalition's proposal. I believe it would put us on the right track.

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#### SOUND ENERGY POLICY NEEDED FOR ECONOMY, NATIONAL SECURITY, AND LOWER GAS PRICES

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

Ms. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, working Americans across the country are paying the highest prices at the pump at any time since World War II. More and more of their hard-earned dollars are spent on gasoline, leaving far less dollars to be spent on their loved ones.

But the lack of any energy policy by the Clinton-Gore administration has put not only our economic security at risk but our national security as well. The United States relies on foreign imports at this point for 56 percent of its crude oil needs today. That compares to 35 percent during the Arab oil embargo in 1973. Think what that would mean to the United States if that supply were suddenly cut off.

The Clinton-Gore energy policy will just make things worse before they get better. The Department of Energy estimates that in 20 years the United States will be dependent on foreign imports for 65 percent of our crude oil needs.

We must have a sound energy policy to provide for America's economic and national security interests and lower prices at the pumps.

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#### SUPPORT THE STAMP OUT CANCER REAUTHORIZATION ACT

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

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Stamp Out Cancer Reauthorization Act. Now, this bill would extend for an additional 2 years the breast cancer research stamp program enacted by us in the last Congress.

Now, this is a 40-cent stamp used normally for 33-cent postage. The excess revenue raised is used to provide funding for breast cancer research at NIH.

As of last month, almost 160 million stamps had been sold, raising \$11.3 million for breast cancer research. 182,800 new cases of breast cancer are estimated for the year 2000; and, sadly

enough, there will be 41,200 deaths expected.

Breast cancer remains the most common form of cancer among women. We need every dime we can to promote research in this important field. Please join me in cosponsoring this bill, which I plan to introduce today.

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#### TIME TO MOVE FORWARD ON GUN LEGISLATION IS NOW

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

Mr. FORD. Mr. Speaker, next month, very soon, we will unfortunately mark the 1-year anniversary of the tragedy at Columbine High School. Unfortunately, sensible gun control or legislation still languishes here in the Congress.

Forty-three percent of households in America with children have guns. Nothing is wrong with that. It would seem to me, though, that those of us in this Congress, in the face of horrors and tragedies around the Nation, would feel compelled to act.

In my home State of Tennessee, 95 percent of background checks for those who wish to purchase guns take place within 2 hours. Only 5 percent require additional information from law enforcement authorities.

Is it that much of an inconvenience, I say to those Members of the other side and even on my side, those in the National Rifle Association, and those in the gun lobby community? Is it that much to wait to ensure that we are able to cut down on human loss? Is it that much to wait to ensure that children, indeed, would be safer?

The conferees in the House and Senate have not met since August. I applaud the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LOFGREN) for bringing a motion to instruct the conferees to meet. Let the leadership in the House and Senate call the meeting of the Senate conferees. Let us do right by our children.

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#### FISCAL YEAR 2000 BUDGET RESOLUTION

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

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, later today we are going to have a heated debate about the next Federal budget. We have already heard that some of our friends on the left are saying there are tax cuts for the rich. I guess if one is married, one is considered rich because we do make room to eliminate the marriage penalty tax. I guess if one owns a small business or if one is a farmer, I guess they consider one rich because we do make it easier in terms of estate taxes.

But the really good news about this Federal budget, and I hope Members are paying attention, is that this year, in this fiscal year, we will spend in the Federal budget \$1,780 billion. Under the

budget we are proposing, we are talking about spending \$1,820 billion. That is a 2.2 percent increase. That is the smallest increase in my adult life.

More importantly, Mr. Speaker, the Bureau of Labor Statistics tells us that this year the average family budget will grow at 4.9 percent. Now, when is the last time we have had a Federal budget that grew at half the rate of the average family budget? This is a good budget. It is fair. It has been evenly crafted. I hope Members will join me in supporting it.

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#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, the pending business is the question of 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.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. 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.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 345, nays 58, not voting 31, as follows:

[Roll No. 66]

YEAS—345

Abercrombie  
Allen  
Andrews  
Archer  
Baca  
Bachus  
Baker  
Baldacci  
Baldwin  
Ballenger  
Barcia  
Barr  
Barrett (NE)  
Barrett (WI)  
Bartlett  
Bass  
Bateman  
Becerra  
Bentsen  
Bereuter  
Berkley  
Berman  
Berry  
Biggert  
Bilirakis  
Bishop  
Blagojevich  
Blumenauer  
Blunt  
Boehkert  
Boehner  
Bonilla  
Boswell  
Boucher  
Boyd  
Brady (TX)  
Brown (FL)  
Bryant  
Burr  
Burton  
Buyer  
Callahan  
Calvert  
Camp  
Campbell  
Canady

Cannon  
Capps  
Capuano  
Cardin  
Carson  
Castle  
Chabot  
Chambliss  
Chenoweth-Hage  
Clayton  
Clement  
Coble  
Coburn  
Collins  
Combust  
Conyers  
Cook  
Cooksey  
Cox  
Coyne  
Cramer  
Cubin  
Cummings  
Cunningham  
Danner  
Davis (FL)  
Davis (IL)  
Davis (VA)  
Deal  
DeGette  
DeLauro  
DeLay  
DeMint  
Deutsch  
Diaz-Balart  
Dickey  
Dicks  
Doggett  
Doolittle  
Doyle  
Dreier  
Duncan  
Dunn  
Edwards  
Ehlers

Ehrlich  
Emerson  
Eshoo  
Etheridge  
Evans  
Everett  
Ewing  
Farr  
Fattah  
Fletcher  
Foley  
Forbes  
Ford  
Fossella  
Fowler  
Frank (MA)  
Franks (NJ)  
Frelinghuysen  
Frost  
Gallegly  
Ganske  
Gedden  
Gekas  
Gephardt  
Gibbons  
Gilchrist  
Gilman  
Gonzalez  
Goode  
Goodlatte  
Goodling  
Gordon  
Goss  
Graham  
Granger  
Green (TX)  
Green (WI)  
Gutierrez  
Hall (OH)  
Hall (TX)  
Hansen  
Hastings (FL)  
Hastings (WA)  
Hayes  
Hayworth  
Hilleary

Hinchey  
Hinojosa  
Hobson  
Hoefel  
Hoekstra  
Holden  
Holt  
Horn  
Hostettler  
Houghton  
Hoyer  
Hunter  
Hutchinson  
Hyde  
Inslee  
Isakson  
Istook  
Jackson (IL)  
Jenkins  
John  
Johnson (CT)  
Johnson, E. B.  
Johnson, Sam  
Jones (NC)  
Jones (OH)  
Kanjorski  
Kaptur  
Kasich  
Kelly  
Kennedy  
Kildee  
Kilpatrick  
Kind (WI)  
King (NY)  
Kingston  
Klecza  
Knollenberg  
Kolbe  
LaHood  
Lampson  
Lantos  
Largent  
LaTourette  
Lazio  
Leach  
Lee  
Levin  
Lewis (CA)  
Lewis (KY)  
Lipinski  
Lofgren  
Lucas (KY)  
Lucas (OK)  
Luther  
Maloney (CT)  
Maloney (NY)  
Manzullo  
Markey  
Mascara  
Matsui  
McCarthy (MO)  
McCarthy (NY)  
McCrery  
McHugh  
McInnis  
McIntosh  
McIntyre  
McKeon  
Meehan  
Meek (FL)

Meeks (NY)  
Menendez  
Mica  
Millender-McDonald  
Miller (FL)  
Miller, Gary  
Minge  
Mink  
Moakley  
Mollohan  
Moran (KS)  
Moran (VA)  
Morella  
Murtha  
Myrick  
Nadler  
Napolitano  
Neal  
Nethercutt  
Ney  
Northup  
Norwood  
Nussle  
Obey  
Oliver  
Ortiz  
Ose  
Owens  
Oxley  
Packard  
Pascarella  
Pastor  
Paul  
Payne  
Pease  
Pelosi  
Peterson (PA)  
Petri  
Phelps  
Pickering  
Pitts  
Pombo  
Porter  
Portman  
Price (NC)  
Pryce (OH)  
Quinn  
Radanovich  
Rahall  
Rangel  
Regula  
Reyes  
Reynolds  
Riley  
Rivers  
Rodriguez  
Roemer  
Rogers  
Rohrabacher  
Ros-Lehtinen  
Rothman  
Roukema  
Roybal-Allard  
Rush  
Ryan (WI)  
Ryun (KS)  
Salmon  
Sanchez  
Sanders

NAYS—58

Hooley  
Hulshof  
Kucinich  
LaFalce  
Larson  
Latham  
Lewis (GA)  
LoBiondo  
McGovern  
McKinney  
McNulty  
Metcalfe  
Miller, George  
Moore  
Oberstar  
Peterson (MN)  
Pickett  
Ramstad  
Rogan  
Sabo

Sandlin  
Sanford  
Sawyer  
Saxton  
Scarborough  
Sensenbrenner  
Serrano  
Shadegg  
Shaw  
Shays  
Sherman  
Sherwood  
Shinkus  
Shows  
Shuster  
Simpson  
Sisisky  
Skeen  
Skelton  
Smith (MI)  
Smith (NJ)  
Smith (TX)  
Smith (WA)  
Souders  
Spence  
Spratt  
Stabenow  
Stark  
Stearns  
Stump  
Sununu  
Talent  
Tancredo  
Tanner  
Tauscher  
Tauzin  
Taylor (NC)  
Terry  
Thomas  
Thornberry  
Thune  
Thurman  
Tierney  
Traficant  
Turner  
Udall (CO)  
Upton  
Vento  
Vitter  
Walden  
Walsh  
Wamp  
Watkins  
Watt (NC)  
Watts (OK)  
Waxman  
Weiner  
Weldon (FL)  
Weldon (PA)  
Wexler  
Weygand  
Whitfield  
Wilson  
Wolf  
Woolsey  
Wu  
Wynn  
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—31

Ackerman  
Armey  
Barton  
Bliley  
Bono  
Crane  
Dingell  
Dixon  
Dooley  
Engel  
Greenwood  
Herger  
Hill (IN)  
Jackson-Lee  
(TX)