

have \$1.1 trillion that is owed the Social Security Trust Fund, and then the other 117 trust funds that the Federal Government has represents additional IOUs of another \$1.2 trillion.

So we divide it in three different levels. Most of the surplus is coming from the Social Security surplus, the excess of Social Security taxes over what is needed to pay Social Security benefits. And I think we should remind ourselves, Madam Speaker, that Social Security is a pay-as-you-go program; that when Social Security taxes come in, by the end of the week, that money is sent out in benefits. So there is no reserve. There are no accounts with individuals' names on it. And that has left us with the problem of how we are going to pay back that money when the baby boomers start retiring in 2008. So we have a huge increase in the number of retirees, recipients, as we are looking at a relatively fewer number of workers that are paying in those taxes to pay the benefits for those retirees.

We have been talking in both the White House and in both Chambers of Congress about paying down the debt held by the public. Some people refer to it as the public debt. Technically, that is not correct. It is the debt held by the public. The dollars that we are using to pay down that debt held by the public are the extra dollars mostly coming in from the Social Security Trust Fund. So we write out an IOU, and we use those dollars to pay down the debt held by the public.

To assume this has anything to do with helping to keep Social Security solvent is incorrect. The only thing that might be worse than using this money to pay down the debt and writing out an IOU is possibly using it for increased spending and starting new entitlement programs. If we do this, and then we have a problem with Social Security in the next 8 to 15 years, it is even more difficult because we have expanded the size of the Federal Government.

Let me mention the tax cuts that will be coming up in this Chamber in the next couple or 3 days as we talk about a tax reduction. If things were perfect, we should not have a tax reduction, but that money should be used to make sure Social Security stays solvent. I think one way to do this is to put it in privately held and owned accounts where the flexibility, where the alternatives of an individual to invest that money are limited, such as in a 401(k). So they would be limited to safe investments. They would be limited to only a certain percentage that could go into equity, stocks, and the remainder would have to go into interest-bearing accounts.

If we were to accomplish that and use this money now, it would simplify and help us solve the long-term problems of Social Security. And I just mentioned, we are looking at surpluses coming in in the next several years of \$5.6 trillion. We are looking at an unfunded liability for Social Security of \$9 trillion.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 50 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. EMERSON) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: Isaiah begins his message with these words: "Hear, O heavens, and listen, O earth, for the Lord speaks."

All the heavens and all the earth cannot grasp or contain Your Word, O Lord. Once spoken and unleashed upon our world, Your word catapults imaginings to their heights and penetrates everything to its depths. May our hearing turn to listening and our listening make us so attentive that it leads to new understanding and new ways of acting.

Your Word provokes Isaiah to cry out to the people: If only we were free enough to be raised up by its power or strong enough to be embraced by its full passion! Then we like Isaiah would be able to hear, in our broadcasted news, the voice of violence coming from our own children. And we would lament as a nation searching for prophetic vision until we and our ways of acting change. We pray for this vision now and forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TRAFICANT) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. TRAFICANT led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Ms. Wanda Evans, one of his secretaries.

APPOINTMENT AS MEMBERS TO ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON FOREST COUNTIES PAYMENTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, and pursuant to section

320(b)(2) of Public Law 106-291, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following members on the part of the House to the Advisory Committee on Forest Counties Payments:

Mr. Robert E. Douglas of California and

Mr. Mark Evans of Texas.

There was no objection.

COMMUNICATION FROM HON. RICHARD A. GEPHARDT, DEMOCRATIC LEADER

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from RICHARD A. GEPHARDT, Democratic Leader:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
OFFICE OF THE DEMOCRATIC LEADER,

Washington, DC, March 6, 2001.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to section 127 of P.L. 97-377 (2 U.S.C. 88b-3), I hereby appoint the following Member to the House of Representatives Page Board:

Mr. Kildee, MI.

Yours Very Truly,

RICHARD A. GEPHARDT.

NOW IS THE TIME FOR TAX RELIEF

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

Mr. GIBBONS. Madam Speaker, America and indeed this Congress has a lot to celebrate. After years of wasteful spending and rising deficits, our fiscal house is in order. Congress has a balanced fiscal budget. Since 1997 we have paid down approximately \$363 billion of our public debt. We are on the course to paying off the complete \$2 trillion public debt over the next 10 years.

The Republican Congress has walled off nearly \$3 trillion for the protection of Social Security, Medicare and further debt relief.

The nonpartisan CBO estimates that we will have a \$5.6 trillion surplus this year. Our fiscal house is not only in order, it is in the best possible shape it has been in generations. Now is the time to give Americans some much-needed tax relief. If the surplus money stays in Washington, it will only be spent on bigger and more wasteful government bureaucracy. We need to put America's families first. They want and deserve real tax relief now.

FAMILIES AND THE RESPONSIBILITY OF PARENTHOOD

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Madam Speaker, a 15-year-old California student shot and killed two peers and wounded 13 others. Once again, guns are blamed.

Madam Speaker, I disagree. It is time to look at family and the responsibilities of parenthood. But in any regard,

just think about it. America has drugs, rape, even murder in our schools, but God is not allowed to enter, not even a moment of silence. Beam me up.

A nation that denies God defies God and invites disaster like we are seeing week after week, month after month. I yield back the fact that school prayer may not solve all problems, but school prayer is a start in the right direction.

TRIBUTE TO JACKIE STILES

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

Mr. BLUNT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to talk about a totally different kind of situation at school than the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TRAFICANT) mentioned. I rise to pay tribute to a young lady who has brought praise and honor on the sport of basketball and to Southwest Missouri State University by becoming the Nation's all-time leading scorer in women's NCAA Division I basketball.

Jackie Stiles has been among the leading scorers in women's college basketball for 4 years. She scored 20 or more points in college games 86 times; 30-plus points 35 times; 40-plus points 10 times, and in 2 games she broke the 50-point mark. She is one of only two players in NCAA women's basketball history to break the 50-point mark twice. She broke the 12-year-old NCAA Division I scoring mark of 3,103 points in a game last week with Creighton University.

Jackie Stiles grew up playing basketball in Claflin, Kansas, where she was highly recruited by colleges and universities nationwide. She has also been on the all-American academic team every year of her college career. She is a great role model for students and young athletes and young women.

Madam Speaker, I wish her and her team well as they go on to finish this season and to add new points to that overall record.

TRIBUTE TO JACKIE STILES

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

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I join the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) in recognizing the achievement of a remarkable athlete that comes from the First District of Kansas. Claflin, Kansas, population 700, native Jackie Stiles, who averages around 30 points per game, is one of college basketball's most outstanding scorers.

On March 1, she made history by breaking the NCAA Division I women's career scoring record of 3,133 points. She increased that record by adding another 35 points on March 3 during Southwest Missouri's final regular season game. Jackie's hard work and dedication to basketball is unparalleled.

She remains the leading scorer in Kansas high school basketball history.

Her practice routine includes shooting 1,000 baskets each time. While in high school, Jackie's right wrist was broken during a game. Days later, the right-handed shooter was training herself to shoot with her left hand. These examples demonstrate her natural talents and desire to achieve perfection.

Jackie has received so many well deserved honors. Among them include twice being named Missouri Valley Conference Player of the Year, in addition to being a member of the United State's Gold Medal-Winning Jones Cup Team. This year she was nominated for an ESPY, and is a hopeful for another Missouri Valley Conference Player of the Year award, in addition to being named Naismith Player of the Year.

Jackie is quick to acknowledge the contributions of others in her success, particularly her parents, Pat and Pam Stiles, of Claflin, Kansas. She always places her team first and herself second. She maintains an undying devotion to her fans and it is common for her to stay hours after the game until each person who wants an autograph has seen her.

Seldom does an individual come along whose character and skill transcend beyond the court. In Kansas and Missouri, Jackie is a role model. Now the rest of the Nation can discover how special she is. Jackie Stiles is truly deserving of her most recent honors and accomplishments.

Madam Speaker, congratulations to her and her hometown of Claflin, Kansas.

PROVIDING FAMILIES WITH MUCH NEEDED RELIEF

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

Mr. STEARNS. Madam Speaker, American families deserve to share in the rewards of this economy they shaped and the surplus they created. At the same time recognizing the slower economy of the last 6 months, we need to get some help, and tax relief would do that.

Critics of tax relief cannot have it both ways. They argued against tax relief when the deficits were more than \$250 billion in the 1990s; and now they argue against tax relief again when the deficits have turned into surpluses.

So many families are still struggling today to pay their credit card and utility bills. Ending the marriage penalty tax and phasing out the death tax will create a fair Tax Code that would benefit all Americans.

Madam Speaker, allowing all Americans to keep more of their money is a good policy for the economy as a whole. Clearly there is room within the surplus to pay down the debt, fund priority programs, and enact President Bush's tax cut.

ISSUES CONCERNING VIEQUES, PUERTO RICO

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

Mr. ACEVEDO-VILÁ. Madam Speaker, I want to recognize my constituents from Puerto Rico, many of them from Vieques, that have come to Washington to share with Members their concerns involving the U.S. Navy's bombing exercises on Vieques.

For the last 60 years, the people of the island of Vieques have suffered from the Navy's bombing exercises. They have seen their children get ill and die of cancer and have suffered from numerous diseases. Residents of Vieques have a mortality rate 40 percent higher than that of Puerto Rico and a 27 percent higher risk of dying from cancer.

This is a nonpartisan issue. In Puerto Rico, all political parties stand united. We welcome the support and commitment of Governor Pataki of New York and Governor DiFrancesco of New Jersey.

Despite what my colleagues may have heard, our military preparedness does not rest in the balance of training at Vieques. Jack Shanahan, retired Admiral of the U.S. Second Atlantic Fleet, has stated that there are alternative sites and that training on Vieques is outdated. Further, we are encouraged by the Secretary of Defense's decision to suspend exercises that were scheduled to take place on Vieques in March.

I stand here today to call on President Bush to order the permanent cessation of all bombing exercises on Vieques. Vieques is not a national security issue. It is a health and human rights issue. If compassion has any meaning, I cannot think of any more compelling case. I urge my colleagues to support our letter to the President.

Elie Weisel said: Indifference reduces the other to an abstraction. The people of Vieques are very real and their suffering very concrete. Indifference on this issue is unacceptable.

AGAINST THE PRESIDENT'S TAX CUT

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

Mr. ROEMER. Madam Speaker, I rise to discuss what the American people need and want and that is fair tax cuts based upon a real surplus. I disagree with the President's proposal that he has laid before us that is based on a Ouija board prediction, a crystal ball and a magic wand. We do not know if these surpluses are going to materialize. As a matter of fact, from our State in Indiana, we used to have a surplus 2 years ago. It is gone. We do not know if this Federal surplus is going to be there in 2 years, let alone 10. Yet the