

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that the President included maximum debt reduction, strengthening Social Security and Medicare and a \$1 trillion budget reserve to pay for things that may come up, like agriculture.

I am also very pleased that he is strengthening our families by lifting the burden of death tax that makes it hard to pass on the farm or family business to the next generation, addressing the marriage penalty and doubling the per-child tax credit.

But today we vote on an across-the-board tax relief for our families. As I travel around southwest Minnesota talking to families and farmers and small businesses, they tell me that we need to give the economy a boost right now to keep it moving in the right direction. This will provide real money that families can use to pay down credit card debt or to spend a little less time working for the government and a little more time with their own families.

It is because of this that this Kennedy will be voting for across-the-board tax relief today.

BUDGET FIRST, TAX CUT LATER

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

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, the House will take up and consider a major tax cut today without ever having first adopted a budget to see if the tax cut will fit within that budget. No American family, no business would engage in major spending without first adopting a budget.

The Congressional Budget Act of 1974 requires the Congress to adopt a budget resolution before votes on tax cuts. The 33 members of the Blue Dog coalition in the House will lead the fight today for a budget first, asking this House to commit to the letter and the spirit of the Budget Act.

Democrats want the largest tax cut we can afford, but we do not know how much we can afford until we first have a budget debate and determine what the budget resolution of this Congress provides for. Then we will know how big a tax cut we can afford.

HONORING JANET RAY WEININGER

(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, I am pleased to honor the compassion of Janet Ray Weininger, founder of Wings of Valor, a charity which provides humanitarian assistance to the people of Nicaragua. Organized by Janet in 1998 as a result of the horrific natural disasters in Central America, Wings of Valor brought food, clothing, shelter and assistance to the most remote towns and villages in Nicaragua.

Janet was appalled by what she saw and what she heard from friends there, so she knew she had to do something to help bring relief. She gained the help of the Air Force Reserve unit at Homestead, Florida, and with their assistance was able to gather needed provisions and distribute them to the people of Nicaragua.

Three years later, Wings of Valor continues to minister to the needs of the Nicaraguan people; and because of her continued and selfless charity, Janet Ray Weininger deserves the recognition of the U.S. Congress and, indeed, the American people.

WRITE A BUDGET, THEN GIVE TAX CUTS

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

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, a politician's first instinct is to promise everything to everybody. It is a lot easier for politicians to say yes to everybody and put off the tough choices until later. That is why this House set up a budget process that forces us to make tough choices between our competing priorities. It is the same process every responsible American family and business follows. Before they start spending money, they sit down and figure out how much they have.

In a perfect world we would have all the money we needed to take care of all our priorities. But this is not a perfect world. We have to make tough choices. If we want to give people bigger tax cuts, we will have to take some money out of Social Security and Medicare. If we want to pay down more debt, we will have to restrain spending or tax cuts.

Let us do the hard work first. Let us write a budget, laying out our priorities, then let us give people tax cuts. President Bush and the Senate are debating tax cuts within a budget framework and we should be doing that in the House as well.

SUDAN PEACE ACT

(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, even now, in the 21st century, atrocities are being committed in other countries that boggle the mind, and not always by individual terrorist groups. They are also being committed by governments.

Yesterday, I joined my colleagues, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TANCREDI) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE), in announcing the reintroduction of the Sudan Peace Act. What is going on in the Sudan is as bad as anything ever committed by any government anywhere: slavery, actual slavery, rape campaigns, starvation campaigns, intentional bombings of churches, schools, hospitals, mar-

kets, and villages are happening. This is how the radical Sudanese Khartoum regime intends to put down the Christians, the Animists in the south.

The world community has completely failed to stand up to the Sudanese government. Our former Secretary of State, Madelyn Albright, said the crisis in the Sudan "wasn't marketable." But yesterday, Secretary Powell indicated renewed, and I think heartfelt, interest in standing up to the Sudanese.

Let us pass the Sudan Peace Act quickly and work with this administration to bring peace in that war-torn land.

BUDGET FIRST, TAX CUTS LATER

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I gladly join my colleagues to ask this Congress to do what every American family does, at least those who do keep their heads above the water, and that is provide a budget and then determine how much they can spend,—weekly, monthly and yearly for their families.

The projection of over \$5 trillion as a surplus is not a reality. We do not know what can happen tomorrow. And frankly, this fiscally irresponsible vote today does not answer the question of whether or not we have a budget to help students go to school with Pell Grants, to provide dollars for historically black colleges and Spanish-serving colleges or institutions of higher learning across the Nation or institutions serving native Americans.

Do we have the Medicare guaranteed-drug prescription benefit that our seniors need? Or are we giving the 1 percent of Americans, the wealthiest, the highest tax cut without again determining what we need in order to provide for investments in our nation? Do we have enough money for our veterans, who have given of themselves, and the many families of veterans, and those families left behind by our service people who have given the ultimate sacrifice? We need a budget before we need a tax cut.

AMERICANS DESERVE TAX RELIEF

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

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, working Americans deserve tax relief. The American family's tax burden has now reached its highest level since World War II. In fact, the average American will have to work 129 days to pay off their total tax bill. Mr. Speaker, no one, regardless of income level, should have to pay more than one-third of their hard-earned paycheck in taxes to the Federal Government.

Americans will send \$5.6 trillion more to Washington over the next 10

years than is needed to run the government. This surplus is the direct result of the diligence and hard work of the American people. The choice for this Congress is simple: keep the money for more Washington bureaucracy or return a portion of the surplus to working men and women. Mr. Speaker, I choose the people. Under the tax cut proposal, every American that pays income taxes will receive significant tax relief.

Mr. Speaker, this bill puts money back in the hands of Americans. Make no mistake, this is real tax relief for real people. Mr. Speaker, now more than ever Americans need to keep more of their hard-earned money in their pockets. The American people are overtaxed, and I look forward to voting today to return a portion of their money back to them. Taxpayers have earned it, and our slowing economy deserves it.

□ 1015

WHITHER THE TAX CUT

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

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, the American public is not fooled by the charade before us today. Many in this Chamber claim that we have a \$5 trillion surplus. The fact is this: We have a \$5 trillion debt. Only in Washington, D.C., only here in the Nation's capital can a \$5 trillion debt somehow magically transform itself into a \$5 trillion surplus. That is new math at its finest. I do not know about you, but where I went to school in Texas, that just does not add up.

According to my figures, in order to have a \$5 trillion surplus, we would need to have \$10 trillion in the bank. But as our friend Chris Farley might have said, "We don't have Jack Squat." We need tax cuts in America. I support tax cuts in America. The Blue Dogs support tax cuts in America. But let us be responsible. We need a budget before we have tax cuts. We need to do what every family farmer does and every family business. Every family in America has a budget first. Mr. Speaker, let us formulate a budget first. Then we will give America the tax break that it deserves.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. THORNBERRY). 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.

Mr. TURNER. 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 230, nays 180, answered "present" 1, not voting 21, as follows:

[Roll No. 34]

YEAS—230

Abercrombie	Gordon	Otter
Akin	Goss	Oxley
Armey	Graham	Pastor
Bachus	Granger	Paul
Baker	Graves	Payne
Ballenger	Green (WI)	Pence
Barr	Greenwood	Peterson (PA)
Bartlett	Grucci	Petri
Bass	Gutknecht	Pickering
Bereuter	Hall (TX)	Pitts
Berman	Hansen	Pombo
Biggert	Hart	Portman
Bilirakis	Hastings (FL)	Pryce (OH)
Blunt	Hastings (WA)	Putnam
Boehlert	Hayes	Quinn
Boehner	Hayworth	Radanovich
Bonilla	Hefley	Regula
Bono	Herger	Rehberg
Boyd	Hillery	Reynolds
Brady (TX)	Hobson	Riley
Brown (SC)	Hoekstra	Rogers (KY)
Bryant	Horn	Rogers (MI)
Burton	Hostettler	Rohrabacher
Buyer	Houghton	Ros-Lehtinen
Callahan	Hunter	Roukema
Calvert	Hutchinson	Royce
Camp	Hyde	Ryan (WI)
Cannon	Isakson	Ryun (KS)
Cantor	Issa	Saxton
Capito	Istook	Scarborough
Castle	Jenkins	Schrock
Chabot	Johnson (CT)	Sensenbrenner
Chambliss	Johnson (IL)	Sessions
Clyburn	Johnson, Sam	Shadegg
Coble	Keller	Shaw
Collins	Kelly	Sherwood
Combest	Kennedy (MN)	Shimkus
Conyers	Kerns	Simmons
Cooksey	Kildee	Simpson
Cox	King (NY)	Skeen
Crane	Kingston	Smith (MI)
Crenshaw	Kirk	Smith (NJ)
Cubin	Klecza	Smith (TX)
Culberson	Knollenberg	Souder
Cunningham	Kolbe	Spence
Davis, Jo Ann	LaHood	Stearns
Davis, Tom	Largent	Stump
Deal	Latham	Sununu
DeLay	Leach	Sweeney
DeMint	Lewis (KY)	Tauzin
Diaz-Balart	Linder	Taylor (NC)
Dingell	Lipinski	Terry
Doolittle	LoBiondo	Thomas
Dreier	Lucas (OK)	Thornberry
Duncan	Maloney (CT)	Thune
Dunn	Maloney (NY)	Tiahrt
Edwards	Manzullo	Tiberi
Ehlers	McCrery	Toomey
Ehrlich	McHugh	Trafigant
Emerson	McInnis	Upton
English	McKeon	Vitter
Everett	Mica	Walden
Ferguson	Miller (FL)	Walsh
Flake	Miller, Gary	Wamp
Fletcher	Moakley	Watkins
Foley	Mollohan	Watts (OK)
Fossella	Moran (KS)	Waxman
Frelinghuysen	Morella	Weldon (FL)
Gallely	Myrick	Weldon (PA)
Ganske	Nethercutt	Weller
Gekas	Ney	Whitfield
Gibbons	Northup	Wicker
Gilchrest	Norwood	Wilson
Gillmor	Nussle	Wolf
Gilman	Ortiz	Wu
Goode	Osborne	Young (FL)
Goodlatte	Ose	

NAYS—180

Aderholt	Baird	Barrett
Allen	Baldacci	Becerra
Andrews	Baldwin	Bentsen
Baca	Barcia	Berkley

Berry	Inslee	Pallone
Bishop	Israel	Pascarell
Blagojevich	Jackson (IL)	Pelosi
Blumenauer	Jackson-Lee	Peterson (MN)
Borski	(TX)	Pelphs
Boswell	Jefferson	Pomeroy
Boucher	John	Price (NC)
Brady (PA)	Johnson, E. B.	Rahall
Brown (FL)	Jones (OH)	Ramstad
Brown (OH)	Kanjorski	Rangel
Capps	Kaptur	Reyes
Capuano	Kennedy (RI)	Rivers
Cardin	Kilpatrick	Rodriguez
Carson (IN)	Kind (WI)	Roemer
Carson (OK)	Kucinich	Ross
Clay	LaFalce	Rothman
Clayton	Lampson	Roybal-Allard
Clement	Langevin	Rush
Condit	Lantos	Sabo
Costello	Larsen (WA)	Sanchez
Cramer	Larson (CT)	Sanders
Crowley	Lee	Sandlin
Davis (CA)	Levin	Sawyer
Davis (IL)	Lewis (GA)	Schaffer
DeFazio	Lofgren	Schakowsky
DeGette	Lowey	Schiff
Delahunt	Lucas (KY)	Scott
Deutsch	Luther	Serrano
Dicks	Markey	Sherman
Doggett	Mascara	Sisisky
Dooley	Matheson	Slaughter
Doyle	Matsui	Smith (WA)
Engel	McCarthy (MO)	Snyder
Eshoo	McCarthy (NY)	Solis
Etheridge	McCollum	Spratt
Evans	McDermott	Stark
Farr	McGovern	Stenholm
Filner	McIntyre	Strickland
Ford	McKinney	Tanner
Frank	McNulty	Tauscher
Frost	Meehan	Taylor (MS)
Gephardt	Meek (FL)	Thompson (CA)
Gonzalez	Meeks (NY)	Thompson (MS)
Green (TX)	Menendez	Thurman
Hall (OH)	Millender	Towns
Harman	McDonald	Turner
Hill	Miller, George	Udall (CO)
Hilliard	Mink	Udall (NM)
Hinchey	Moore	Velazquez
Hinojosa	Moran (VA)	Visclosky
Hoeffel	Murtha	Waters
Holden	Nadler	Watt (NC)
Holt	Napolitano	Weiner
Honda	Neal	Wexler
Hooley	Oberstar	Woolsey
Hoyer	Obey	Wynn
Hulshof	Olver	

ANSWERED "PRESENT"—1

Tancredo

NOT VOTING—21

Ackerman	DeLauro	Platts
Barton	Fattah	Shays
Bonior	Gutierrez	Shows
Burr	Jones (NC)	Skelton
Coyne	LaTourette	Stupak
Cummings	Lewis (CA)	Tierney
Davis (FL)	Owens	Young (AK)

□ 1041

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii, Ms. HARMAN, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Messrs. ROTHMAN, ISRAEL, HOLDEN, KIND, RAHALL, DOOLEY of California, SPRATT, BARCIA, DAVIS of Illinois and WATT of North Carolina changed their vote from "yea" to "nay."

So the Journal was approved.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. THORNBERRY). The question is on the motion to adjourn offered by the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. HILL).

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the noes appeared to have it.