

fearing to move; A, aggressively; N and C, sensitive to needed causes; Y, yielding a great foresight; P, progressive; E, energizing; L, loving; O, overwhelmingly; S, spelling; and I, intellect. That is our "NANCY PELOSI."

I am so happy to be from the State of California that produced this woman that will guide this country in the future. I salute the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), our newest whip.

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, while she's already been on the job for about three weeks now, tomorrow my colleagues, my fellow Californian, my friend, NANCY PELOSI will be sworn in to her new post as the democratic whip, and it's going to be a big day for America.

NANCY is the highest-ranking woman in the United States Congress . . . ever! As a Hispanic member of Congress, I can not be prouder of this moment. When the barriers of achievement and opportunity fall for one, they fall for all of us.

NANCY has her work cut out for her. She has dedicated herself to tackling the tough issues facing our economy. There are going to be some rough battles, but NANCY's unique blend of grace and determination will serve her well in the Whip post.

It's hard not to admire NANCY PELOSI. She is a gracious, engaging woman who has raised five children, Chaired the California Democratic Party, served eight terms in Congress, doggedly advocated increased funding for healthcare and breast cancer research, and fought for human rights at home and abroad.

It was her courageous fight against PNTR and for human fights in China, that first introduced me to NANCY when I came to Congress two years ago. I fought along side NANCY as she championed U.S. global leadership for human rights and sustainable development.

NANCY is a loyal friend. I'll never forget how NANCY stepped forward on my behalf during my bid for a position on the rules committee. NANCY PELOSI is always willing to go to bat for her friends. This is the NANCY I know! NANCY has been going to bat for the people of California for 16 years and now she is going to bat for the Democratic Party and the entire nation.

I look forward to NANCY's truly groundbreaking leadership as she leads our party and our nation into the twenty-first century.

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a Member of the House, whom I consider not only a gifted leader but a dear friend. History is being made as NANCY PELOSI is officially sworn in as the new Democratic Whip.

But history will ultimately cite not only the election of the highest-ranking women in the U.S. House of Representatives, it will sit in judgment of the effectiveness of her tenure as Whip. The work has only just begun. And I have every confidence that history will judge this election not only as a landmark event in American history, but a turning point for the Democratic Party and democratic principles. The reason for my optimism is pretty simple. NANCY is a born leader. A lot can be said of her skills, her knack for organizing, her perseverance, and her personal commitment to excellence. But of all the positive things that can be said on her skills and talent, one word al-

ways comes to mind when you think of NANCY PELOSI: leadership. NANCY is a leader when she speaks out for the underprivileged and the disenfranchised. NANCY is a leader in the way she brings people and causes together in a collective and collaborative process. NANCY's leadership drives her to focus on goals and results.

Integrity, honesty, and hard work are the pillars of her success. And I know that she will work tirelessly to forward democratic causes. And working with the Democratic Leader—DICK GEPHARDT—have every confidence that the Democratic Caucus and Party are on the cusp of a new and exciting era.

So to NANCY PELOSI I say you have my every confidence and my total support. Now—let's get to work. Congratulations!

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, we are all here today to honor our colleague and friend NANCY PELOSI. As a fellow Californian and a friend, it is hard for me to hide my delight at NANCY's election as Democratic Whip. For nearly fifteen years, NANCY has done a wonderful job representing the city of San Francisco in Congress. From education, health care, housing, and the economy, she has worked to improve the quality of life for Californians—and all Americans.

On October 10, 2001, the Democratic Caucus made history. We made history by electing NANCY to the highest position ever held by a woman in Congress. Electing a woman to a leadership position was long overdue. And while the Democratic Party continues to be the party of progress, our work is not yet complete.

NANCY, with your election as House Democratic Whip, we made history, we've made progress, and now we will work together to improve American government and to better the lives of the American people. Thank you NANCY for your leadership and your friendship. Congratulations!

RESPONDING TO HUGE TAX BREAKS GIVEN TO AMERICA'S RICH

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BROWN of South Carolina). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I also want to congratulate the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI) and wish her the very best, but the issue that I want to focus on is a very important piece of legislation which is going to surface tomorrow, and that is the issue of how Congress responds to the huge tax breaks that the President and the Republican leadership have given to the wealthiest 1 percent of the population.

Mr. Speaker, this country has a \$6 trillion national debt, and, for the first time now in several years, we are running a deficit.

Mr. Speaker, despite all of the great speeches here about lockboxes and our great love for Social Security, everybody understands that Congress is now dipping into and raiding the Social Security fund.

Further, Mr. Speaker, most people in this country understand that we have

many enormous social needs. In my State of Vermont, every week when I go out and speak to senior citizens, they demand of me that Congress do something about the outrageously high cost of prescription drugs and the fact that we do not have a strong prescription drug benefit under Medicare.

Mr. Speaker, what the issue tomorrow is going to be about is do we give huge tax breaks to the wealthiest people in this country? Forty percent of the President's tax breaks go to the wealthiest 1 percent, people who have a minimum income of \$370,000 a year and average over \$1 million a year in income. So the choice that Congress faces is, do you give huge tax breaks in the future to those people, or do you provide a strong prescription drug benefit under Medicare?

Mr. Speaker, not only is the President and the Republican leadership not going to provide a strong prescription drug benefit under Medicare, in fact in many ways they are going to cut back on Medicare. At a time when we need to strengthen Social Security, at a time that we need to raise the COLA, the President and the Republican leadership are dipping into the Social Security Trust Fund.

Mr. Speaker, let us get our priorities right. I speak to veterans virtually every week in the State of Vermont. We have many town meetings. What they tell me is when they apply for a benefit it takes 6, 7, 8, 10 months for them to get that benefit processed, and the reason is that in many instances the Veterans Administration is understaffed and is unable to process those claims.

Is it more important to give tax breaks to millionaires and billionaires, or is it more important to make sure that our veterans get the benefits to which they are entitled?

Mr. Speaker, just this last week, a couple of days ago, there was a front page story in the New York Times which talked about how middle class parents are finding it harder and harder to pay for the college costs of their kids. The average American young person graduating from a 4-year college ends up \$20,000 in debt excluding the debt incurred, and the growing debt incurred, by their parents.

Is it more important to protect the middle class and make sure that the young people of this country can go to the college that they want and do that by significantly expanding Pell grants and other financial aid programs, or is it more important to give tax breaks to millionaires and billionaires, to people who provide huge campaign contributions to Members of this Congress and the White House?

Mr. Speaker, all over this country we are facing a disaster in terms of child care. Working families are unable to find affordable quality child care. We have people who are paying too much and getting too little, and the children are suffering. Yet the Federal commitment to child care is minimal.

Is it more important that we take care of the youngest children in this society and protect working families who want quality child care for their kids, or is it more important that we give huge tax breaks to the wealthy and the powerful?

Mr. Speaker, in my State and all over this country there is a terrible housing crisis.

The bottom line is let us repeal the tax breaks for the richest 1 percent, let us lower the deficit, and let us take care of the middle class of this country.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. SANCHEZ) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. SANCHEZ addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mrs. DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. DAVIS of California addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mrs. CLAYTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. CLAYTON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mrs. MEEK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. MEEK of Florida addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mrs. CAPPs) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. CAPPs addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. WEINER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SANDLIN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. OWENS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. SCHAKOWSKY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. TURNER) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, this evening during this hour the Blue Dog Democrat coalition in the House is

going to talk about the issue of fiscal responsibility, an issue that we think is very important to address tonight in light of the President's recent budget submission to this Congress.

The President and the Congress are united in the war on terrorism. Members on both sides of the aisle stand together in our commitment to defeat the terrorists and to do whatever is necessary and pay whatever price may be required to preserve our national security and to ensure that we protect the homeland.

There is no division that the current tax cuts that we have enjoyed in the form of the rebates have been important to the American people, and there is no suggestion, contrary to some on the Republican side tonight, that there should be any tax increase in the time of a recession, because we firmly believe that the recession needs to be addressed by this Congress in a responsible way, and tax cuts, tax cuts which have already been given and which already are being implemented in this current recession, are important to the recovery.

So when we debate the resolution on the floor of the House tomorrow, let there be no misunderstanding: Democrats understand that in a recession it would be wrong to increase taxes.

We passed a record tax decrease in June. The tax rebates were good for the American people. But back in June the Congressional Budget Office projected a 10-year surplus of over \$5 billion. Just 7 months later, these projections of a surplus are gone. We find that as a result of the tax cut, as a result of the recession, as a result of the war, we no longer are able to project future surpluses, and, in fact, we can only project future deficits.

We are once again confronted with a pattern of spending that was engaged in for over 30 years by this Congress that was ended in 1996-1997 when this Congress voted for the Balanced Budget Act, an act that put us on the road to fiscal responsibility, that resulted in 3 years of surpluses at the Federal level.

But once again we now see the President of the United States submitting a budget to this Congress that will return us to deficit spending. We believe as Blue Dog Democrats that we can win the war against terrorism, we can protect our homeland, without raiding the Social Security Trust Fund and increasing the national debt that we pass on to our children.

We notice in the President's budget submission of today that the national debt, which was projected back in April of last year to actually disappear over the 10-year period, in fact turn to a surplus, has now evaporated, and, based on the projections now contained in the President's budget, we will once again see \$2.7 trillion in debt by the year 2011.

□ 2030

So in just 7 short months, we went from projections of a surplus over the