

we heard arguments, as we presented our Blue Dog budget, which we thought was a good budget that would have kept us out of this mess that we are in now, some argued against that budget and ultimately defeated it on the basis that we would pay off the Federal debt too quickly, that this United States Government that would pay off, if we went into the surplus and began to pay down some of the debt, that we would pay off the debt too quickly and have to pay some kind of penalty. I wish we could even think that today.

The same folks who may have argued a year ago that we could not pay down the surplus because we might have to pay off the debt too quickly today might ask us to raise the debt ceiling. I have to agree with the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. TAYLOR). I am not going to vote to raise the Federal debt ceiling until we put a good plan in place. I think we need to go back, like we did in 1997, and the President and the administration and the congressional leaders need to sit together and we need to figure out how to get out of this mess together.

I want to thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. TURNER) for his work. I know that he and others have organized this event tonight; and I want to say to the leadership, the Republican and Democratic leadership, and to the administration, the Blue Dogs stand ready to work in a bipartisan way to help us find the solutions to these problems that we are facing today. We are ready. We have got a lot of good folks who understand that the country has many needs, who understand where its priorities are, and we want to work with the President and the congressional leadership to get those problems solved.

I yield back to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. TURNER) and thank him for allowing me to speak.

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman from Florida's remarks and appreciate his commitment to fiscal discipline and fiscal responsibility. It does seem somewhat surprising that in just a year's time or less than a year that our Federal financial picture could have changed so much.

I think one of the most difficult things at work in this Congress today is to acknowledge that the circumstances have changed. There is going to be a resolution on the floor tomorrow. It is not a law. It does not have any effect. It is what we call a sense of the House. It is simply an effort by the Republican leadership to try to put folks on record as to whether or not they are committed to the tax cut that was passed last June.

I was pleased to be one who supported the tax cut last June, but I also understand that since last June we are now at war again. We are now in a posture where we are seeing record projections of deficits rather than surpluses, and I think even though all of us understand that we must not raise taxes

in the current recession, the long term does require an intelligent and a careful discussion of the direction this country has taken; and to blindly follow a path toward fiscal irresponsibility is going to result in debts on the backs of our children that all of us will be ashamed to see.

Our Federal debt, almost \$6 trillion today, is increasing daily because of the deficit spending, and as the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BOYD) pointed out, the President, through the Secretary of the Treasury, has asked this Congress to raise the debt ceiling \$700 billion. We were told back last June that it would not be necessary to raise the Federal debt ceiling for at least 6 or 7 years; but all of a sudden, just before the Christmas recess, we were told that we are now going to have to raise the debt ceiling sometime in late February or early March.

I agree with the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. TAYLOR) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BOYD), we do not need to vote to increase the national debt of this country, to raise the ceiling of that debt until we have some firm commitments regarding a return to fiscal responsibility. As we said earlier, if we continue along the path of the Republican's budget plans over the next 10 years, based on the best estimates we have from the Congressional Budget Office, we will increase the amount of interest that we pay on our national debt by a trillion dollars, over a trillion dollars.

There is a lot we could do with that trillion dollars. As I said, we could fund the President's defense budget request for 3 years straight if we could save that trillion dollars.

We already spend a billion dollars a day on interest on our Federal debt. We were told earlier that the war is costing us a billion dollars a month, contrast that, and it is very expensive to fight this war, and all of us believe we need to spend every dollar necessary to win this war; and it is currently costing us a billion dollars a day, but we are paying a billion dollars every time, billion dollars every month, but it is costing us a billion dollar every day just to pay the interest on our national debt.

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Clearly, our national debt has grown too large. The interest consumes too much of our Federal budget, and we are going in the wrong direction.

If we had a trillion dollars in interest savings by not increasing our national debt, by proceeding on the path we were on and thought we were on last June, where we are not increasing the national debts and in fact were headed towards paying it off, we could take that trillion dollars and save it, and we could pay for 20 years of war at \$1 billion a month.

We are clearly moving back to deficit spending, to raiding Social Security, and toward reckless fiscal policies that our children will have to pay for some-

day. All we are asking of our Republican leaders and of the President is to be honest with the American people; to be sure that they are told the straight story and that they too understand that it is not just the men and women in uniform who are having to sacrifice and risk their lives in fighting this war, but that every American has a role to play and we all have to be willing to sacrifice.

Yes, we need to cut spending in areas where we can cut it. But when we sit down to draw up the Federal budget for the American family, we ought to do it just like we do at home, and that is we ought to measure our revenues and balance those against our expenses. And if we do not have enough income to cover our expenses, we need to cut our expenses and balance our budget. Washington has not learned that. Apparently, even after 3 years of returning to fiscal responsibility and having surpluses in our Federal budget, we once again are turning a blind eye to the importance of balancing our budget.

We believe that the President and the leadership of this House have a responsibility to submit to us a balanced budget and a plan to keep us on the road to fiscal responsibility. That is the only way to preserve the long-term prosperity for the American people. We want to look to the longer term, to be sure our children and grandchildren do not inherit the reckless fiscal policies of the current generation.

I thank the Blue Dog Democrats who have joined me on the floor tonight for this discussion on the importance of fiscal responsibility. I look forward to the opportunity to debate this issue in the days ahead as we continue to work to balance the budget and to pay down our debt and to protect the Social Security trust fund for the future.

In closing tonight, the Blue Dogs would like to close this hour in memory of Darlene Luther, the wife of our friend and colleague, Bill Luther. Both Bill and Darlene have been known throughout the years as public servants, a family that served their constituents, who worked hard together to make America a better place, and our hearts go out tonight to Bill and his family in the loss of Darlene.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. BACA (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today on account of inclement weather and snow conditions canceling his flight.

Mr. HALL of Texas (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today on account of airport delays in Dallas.

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today on account of official business in the district.

Mr. UNDERWOOD (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today on account of official business.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today and February 6 on account of personal reasons.

Mr. LUCAS of Oklahoma (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today on account of weather delay.

Mrs. ROUKEMA (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today and the balance of the week on account of illness.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today and the balance of the week on account of the birth of his first child, Elizabeth Anne.

Mr. SHAW (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today and the balance of the week on account of family medical reasons.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. STARK) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. NORTON, for 5 minutes, today.
 Mr. STARK, for 5 minutes, today.
 Ms. LEE, for 5 minutes, today.
 Mr. BERMAN, for 5 minutes, today.
 Ms. ESHOO, for 5 minutes, today.
 Mr. FARR of California, for 5 minutes, today.
 Mr. HONDA, for 5 minutes, today.
 Ms. LOFGREN, for 5 minutes, today.
 Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, for 5 minutes, today.
 Ms. SANCHEZ, for 5 minutes, today.
 Mr. SHERMAN, for 5 minutes, today.
 Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, for 5 minutes, today.
 Mrs. DAVIS of California, for 5 minutes, today.
 Mrs. CLAYTON, for 5 minutes, today.
 Mrs. MEEK of Florida, for 5 minutes, today.
 Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD, for 5 minutes, today.
 Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.
 Mrs. CAPPS, for 5 minutes, today.
 Mr. SCHIFF, for 5 minutes, today.
 Mr. FILNER, for 5 minutes, today.
 Mr. WEINER, for 5 minutes, today.
 Mr. SANDLIN, for 5 minutes, today.
 Mr. CUMMINGS, for 5 minutes, today.
 Mr. BLUMENAUER, for 5 minutes, today.
 Mr. OWENS, for 5 minutes, today.
 Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. RAMSTAD) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. MORAN of Kansas, for 5 minutes, today.
 Mr. GANSKE, for 5 minutes, February 6 and 7.
 Mr. WALDEN of Oregon, for 5 minutes, today.
 Mr. KIRK, for 5 minutes, today.
 Mr. RAMSTAD, for 5 minutes, today.
 Mr. HERGER, for 5 minutes, February 6.
 Mr. DIAZ-BALART, for 5 minutes, February 6.

(The following Members (at their own request) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. WELLER, for 5 minutes, today.
 Mr. BACHUS, for 5 minutes, today.
 Mr. SANDERS, for 5 minutes, today.

BILL PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Jeff Trandahl, Clerk of the House reports that on February 5, 2002 he presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bill.

H.R. 400. To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to establish the Ronald Reagan Boyhood Home National Historic Site, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 18 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, February 6, 2002, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

5338. A letter from the Legislative and Regulatory Activities Division, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule—Capital; Leverage and Risk-Based Capital Guidelines; Capital Adequacy Guidelines; Capital Maintenance: Nonfinancial Equity Investments [Docket No. 02-01] (RIN: 1557-AB14) received January 29, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

5339. A letter from the Legislative and Regulatory Activities Division, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule—International Banking Activities: Capital Equivalency Deposits [Docket No. 02-02] (RIN: 1557-AC05) received January 29, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

5340. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval of Section 112(I) Authority for Hazardous Air Pollutants and the Chemical Accident Prevention Provisions; Allegheny County; Health Department [PA001-1002; FRL-7135-3] received January 24, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5341. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval of Section 112(I) Authority for Hazardous Air Pollutants; City of Philadelphia; Department of Public Health Air Management Services [PA001-1001; FRL-7134-9] received January 24, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5342. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Interim Final Determination that State has Corrected the Deficiencies in

California, Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District [CA 254-0318c; FRL-7132-1] received January 24, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5343. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District [CA 254-0318a; FRL-7131-9] received January 24, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5344. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of State Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants; States of Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska [FRL-7134-7] received January 24, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5345. A letter from the Associate Chief, Accounting Policy Division, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Billed Party Preference for InterLATA 0 Calls [CC Docket No. 92-77] received January 16, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5346. A letter from the Acting Chief, Policy and Rules Division, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendment of Part 2 of the Commission's Rules to Allocate Spectrum Below 3 GHz for Mobile and Fixed Services to Support the Introduction of New Advanced Wireless Services, including Third Generation Wireless Systems [ET Docket No. 00-258]; Amendment of the U.S. Table of Frequency Allocations to Designate the 2500-2520/2670-2690 MHz Frequency Bands for the Mobile-Satellite Service [RM-9911] received January 16, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5347. A letter from the Senior Legal Advisor, WTB, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Revision of Part 22 and Part 90 Of the Commission's Rules to Facilitate Future Development of Paging Systems [WT Docket No. 96-18]; Implementation of Section 309(j) Of the Communications Act—Competitive Bidding [PR Docket No. 93-253] received January 16, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5348. A letter from the Acting Chief, Policy and Rules Division, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Authorization and Use of Software Defined Radios [ET Docket No. 00-47] received January 16, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5349. A letter from the Senior Legal Advisor to the Bureau Chief, Mass Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendment of Section 73.606(b), Table of Allotments, Television Broadcast Stations (Destin, Florida) [MM Docket No. 01-171, RM-10158] received January 16, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5350. A letter from the Senior Legal Advisor to the Bureau Chief, Mass Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendment of Section 73.622(b), Table of Allotments, Digital Television Broadcast Stations (Calumet, Michigan) [MM Docket No. 01-166, RM-10182] received January 16, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5351. A letter from the Senior Legal Advisor to the Bureau Chief, Mass Media Bureau,