

Qaeda ties and a brutal disregard for human life. A third American, Guillermo Sobero of California, was also taken hostage and subsequently beheaded in June by the terrorists.

Martin and Gracia are all that remains of the group of 21 hostages taken in May. It has been 8 long months for them and their family, especially their three young children, Jeff, Mindy and Zach. The Burnhams have lost considerable weight and have suffered from malaria, artillery wounds, eye infections and numerous sores and cuts.

I ask my fellow Members of Congress and my fellow Americans to pray for the safe and swift release of Martin and Gracia Burnham from this endless nightmare.

CALLING FOR A FREEZE ON FURTHER TAX CUTS

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, there will be a unique opportunity today to do more than pass a birthday resolution for President Reagan. Students of history will remember that massive tax cuts passed in the first year of President Ronald Reagan's term. Just 1 year later, as deficits began to grow, President Reagan showed his mettle by joining with a Republican Senate and a Democratic House to pass into law the Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 1982, raising taxes in the face of a deficit. And then he signed into law several other tax increases, including the Deficit Reduction Act of 1984.

But today the Republican President and the Republican House leaders do not have the vision and the gumption of the former President. The same day that they will pass his birthday resolution, they are going to also pass a resolution saying despite the huge and mounting deficits just like in the first term of President Reagan, they are going to hold steady to the huge tax increases tilted toward the wealthiest in this country.

It would be more appropriate and more fitting to recognize the spirit and the leadership of Ronald Reagan by admitting you were wrong and rescinding or freezing further tax cuts and dealing with the deficit honestly in this House.

CONGRESSIONAL SPENDING

(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, keeping the American people safe is our government's most important duty. We are spending billions of dollars to fight terrorism and to keep the homeland secure. In addition, the recession has cost the government billions more in lost revenue. These things are unavoidable. And it looks like, after passing four balanced budgets in a row, the first time in 40 years, that we will

again run a budget deficit this next year.

But even with all of this necessary spending, we should put plans in place now to return to a balanced budget as soon as we can. We have worked too hard to start paying off the debt to give up now.

In his State of the Union Address, President Bush urged us to limit spending so we can return to surpluses in a year or 2.

So let us fully fund the war on terrorism, let us make sure our airports and power plants are secure, and if the other body ever passes the stimulus package, let us make it law right away. But when it comes to other things, we need to tighten our belt and rein in spending. That is the only way we will stay on track and pay off the public debt. We have paid down over half a trillion dollars in debt already. Let us pay off the rest as soon as we can.

WELFARE BILL REAUTHORIZATION

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Over 30 years ago, Mr. Speaker, I was a single mom with three small children, and even though I was working, I needed AFDC, welfare, to add to my income for health care, child care and food stamps.

When Congress passed welfare reform in 1996, I warned that getting women off the welfare rolls and into dead-end jobs would not be enough, especially if we had a downturn in the economy. The goal of welfare must be to break the cycle of poverty, not just get women jobs that pay slightly above minimum wage.

Under the welfare reauthorization that is before us this year, education must count as work so we can help recipients gain access to training and education so that they can improve their economic future and the future for their children. But without skills, the skills needed for a job, a job that pays a livable wage, and the knowledge that their children are getting good child care while they are away at work, moms will have a hard time succeeding.

THE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET—MEETING THE GOALS OF OUR TIME

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

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, America faces a unique moment in history. Our Nation is at war, our homeland was attacked, and our economy is in recession. The President's budget meets the requirements of victory and the test of responsibility. The President's budget holds government accountable for results that address these priorities of the American people: Winning the war on terrorism, strengthening protec-

tions of our homeland, and revitalizing our economy and creating jobs.

What his budget does is increase spending, nearly doubles homeland security spending, and provides immediate assistance to workers who have lost their jobs, while holding the growth in spending for programs outside of defense and homeland security to the cost of living. His budget provides significant funding increases for important priorities like health care, prescription drugs, education, the environment, agriculture and retirement security, and returns to budget surpluses within 2 to 3 years, if Congress adheres to the President's call for fiscal responsibility.

Mr. Speaker, this budget is an important step forward to protect this country.

TANF REAUTHORIZATION

(Mrs. MINK of Hawaii asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, this year we will be working on the reauthorization of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, known as TANF. It was a rewrite of the welfare law that we had previously enacted called Aid to Dependent Children. One of the major differences of the two concepts was in the old bill we cared about what happened to the families and to the children. That was our primary purpose. Under TANF it is a 5-year restricted cash assistance to families with the primary emphasis on going to work.

What has happened is that the rolls of welfare have dropped, but poverty has remained the same. What we are trying to do in the bill that I have introduced which has 57 sponsors is to put the emphasis on caregiving. It has always been the high principle of Congress to say families count first, the responsibilities of families to nurture their own children. We want to put that at the top, as the emphasis of this new reauthorization: caring for children, allowing parents to stay home to care for their small children and giving them support to build their families' economic future through education. Education must count and be equivalent to work.

PRESIDENT REAGAN'S LEGACY

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, mark your calendar. It is official. I have, in fact, as of this date and this hour heard everything: President Ronald Wilson Reagan on the occasion of his 91st birthday used as an example in the House of Representatives as a tax increaser in America and as an example of someone who believed in the virtue of tax increases.

It is a privilege to rise on the 91st birthday of President Ronald Wilson Reagan. I had the privilege of meeting him in person. I did not know then what we would all come to know, how he would bestride history as few men who have occupied the Presidency would do; how he would rebuild our economy through tax cuts, believing in American entrepreneurship and ingenuity; how he would rebuild the military after years of reckless cutbacks and bring the godless Soviet Union to its knees.

Mr. Speaker, though he cannot hear these words today or even yet remember what he did for America, I believe that soon, with eyes again young, Ronald Reagan will see what his courage has wrought and will hear those words, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

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REDUCING POVERTY ALONG WITH WELFARE

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

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues today as an original cosponsor of H.R. 3113, the TANF Reauthorization Act of 2001. This bill recognizes the need to build on the framework of the 1996 law and refocus our efforts to truly fight poverty in our country.

Although welfare reform "ended welfare as we knew it," it did not reduce family poverty. In many cases, it merely moved families off of welfare rolls and into the class of working poor.

As a result, despite a strong economy and a 50 percent decrease in welfare caseloads over the last 5 years, family poverty has declined by less than 13 percent, and overall poverty has fallen by less than 2 percent. Families cannot be economically secure without employment that pays a living wage.

As we work on TANF reauthorization, we also need to ensure access to Medicaid, food stamps, child care and other transitional work supports for those families leaving welfare.

I support the TANF Reauthorization Act, because it recognizes the need to shift the emphasis from reducing welfare rolls to reducing child and family poverty.

A SAD DAY FOR THE WORKERS OF AMERICA

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, prior to serving in the United States Congress, I served in the Georgia legislature. We were a bicameral body. We had a House and Senate; and when the Georgia House passed a bill, the Georgia Senate would take it up for debate. They would vote it up or down.

When I became a Member of the United States House of Representa-

tives, a similar bicameral body, I thought that is the way it works. But not so. Here we in this House with Republican control have passed a trade promotion bill, we have passed a farm bill, we have passed an energy bill. We have even passed a terrorism insurance bill and, most recently, a jobs creation bill.

And what has happened on the way to the President for signature? I do not know. I do not know. I know that there are some huge tax folks over here; and on Ronald Reagan's 91st birthday, they are going to celebrate by burying the job-creating bill which we need back in the heartland of America so desperately so that people can get to work again. They are going to celebrate Ronald Reagan's birthday by burying the stimulus package.

Well, it must be a great day in the liberal Democratic establishments, Mr. Speaker; but it is a sad day for the workers of the United States of America.

A BALANCED WARTIME BUDGET

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

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, we have seen this movie before. Federal budget deficits as far as the eye can see; "constraints" on Federal spending as realistic as pie in the sky; heavy borrowing from Social Security and Medicare trust funds to pay for day-to-day spending.

In the early nineties, this behavior by the Federal Government retarded economic growth. The annual Federal deficit was \$300 billion a year; post-Cold War defense spending cuts sent unemployment in my congressional district into double digits; long-term interest rates stayed high, putting business borrowing and home mortgages out of reach.

Only after a series of hard-fought battles and the enactment of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 did budget surpluses begin to emerge and to spur economic growth and millions of jobs.

With the release of Monday's budget, Mr. Speaker, it may be "deja vu all over again."

Mr. Speaker, we need a wartime budget which recognizes that defense and homeland security are our top priorities, protects Social Security, and puts everything else, spending and future tax cuts, back on the table.

We need to return to a balanced budget.

Homeland security, Mr. Speaker, must also mean economic security.

PHILIPPINE PEOPLE SUPPORT AMERICA

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

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I do not believe that the people in Iraq

support Saddam Hussein. I do not believe that people in Iran support the religious mullahs that force terrorism all over their country.

But the issue I would like to bring to the floor today is that for generations, for 100 years, the Filipino people have supported the United States; not just in thought, but in blood. I spent a lot of time in the Philippines and I know the people. I have lived there and been with them. Over 90 percent of the Filipinos support the United States presence there and the war against terrorism.

I have heard some negative things about the Filipinos, and I would like to let this House know that they are loyal, they support the United States, they support democracy.

REMEMBERING SUSAN CLYNE

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

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, today I am joined in the gallery by Mr. Charlie Clyne of Lindenhurst, who lost his wife in the World Trade Center on September 11.

Mr. Clyne and I have just met with special master Ken Feinberg to work towards a victim's compensation fund that is fair and just, and I just wanted to share with my colleagues Mr. Clyne's comments and recollections and remembrances about his wife Susan.

She loved her job at Marsh and loved her view from her 96th floor office. She loved computers; and since computer law was not very popular at the time, she chose to stay in insurance where she carved her niche, first as a programmer and then rose through the ranks.

But her greatest love was her children, and she shared that love with her kids. She juggled work, family and studying. Her children were her treasures. She adored them, and they worshipped her. Her office was filled with pictures. She developed a family Web site with pictures, slide shows, and, most recently, streaming video.

As Mr. Clyne wrote in a note to me, "They were truly her angels. Sue got up every morning at 4:45 and was on the 6 a.m. train to the city. We never saw her that morning. We never even had a chance to say good-bye. In an instant, some radical religious moron decided it was her time."

Mr. Speaker, I know that this entire House expresses our condolences and best wishes to Mr. Charlie Clyne and all of the families of victims of that horrible day.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FOSSELLA). The Chair must remind Members that during a session of the House, it shall not be in order for a