

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."

□ 1015

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

Member, Delegate, or Resident Commissioner to introduce to or bring to the attention of the House an occupant of the galleries of the House.

STOP THE RAID ON SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE TRUST FUNDS

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

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, the Administration's new budget is wrapped in the flag. Literally. It has a beautiful red, white and blue cover. But the fine print inside should be written mostly in red ink. Contrary to one pledge after another, from one Administration official after another, this plan rejects a balanced budget in favor of a "borrow and spend" approach.

The central principle on which this budget relies is to take payroll taxes right out of the pocket of employees around this country—on their hard-earned wages that they paid in, thinking it was going for Social Security and Medicare—and uses them for something other than Social Security and Medicare.

This raid on Social Security is not only fiscally irresponsible, it not only shifts the cost of what we are doing now to our children and our grandchildren, but it could well produce a direct cut in Social Security and Medicare benefits. It is wrong; it is misguided. This "borrow and spend" approach should be rejected.

REDUCE POVERTY ALONG WITH WELFARE ROLLS

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, as we move towards reauthorization of TANF, I am pleased to join with my colleagues this morning in a discussion of welfare reform. We must focus on reducing poverty as well as reducing the welfare rolls.

Although welfare rolls are down nearly 50 percent in 5 years, many former recipients have been pushed into low-wage jobs that keep them in poverty. Families cannot be economically secure without work that pays a living wage.

We need to reduce poverty, not just caseloads, by focusing on employment that will lift families out of poverty and really make work pay. Therefore, one of the best ways to reduce poverty is to raise the minimum wage to a livable wage. Let us make this a part of welfare reform.

WELFARE REAUTHORIZATION

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

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, as Congress takes up the reauthorization of the welfare law this year, we must fashion a truly successful welfare system, one which does not abandon people who need help.

Most families who have worked their way off welfare are far from achieving self-sufficiency and are still living in poverty. We must return to making poverty reduction an explicit goal of welfare reform.

Many ex-welfare recipients have been unable to pay rent, buy food or afford medical care. In 1999, even in the midst of an economic boom, ex-welfare recipients who worked earn an average of nearly \$7,200 a year, approximately \$6,000 below the poverty line for a family of three. The success or failure of welfare reform cannot be measured solely by whether caseloads decline; lower welfare case leads must reflect the integration of former welfare recipients into our economic system.

If, on the other hand, lower caseloads only reflect a benefit cutoff in which people disappear from the system without help, an adequate safety net, then welfare reform must be viewed as a failure.

I commend my good friend, the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Mrs. MINK), for introducing H.R. 3113.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS TO SUSPEND THE RULES

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 342 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 342

Resolved, That it shall be in order at any time on the legislative day of Wednesday, February 6, 2002, for the Speaker to entertain motions that the House suspend the rules relating to the following measures:

(1) The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 312) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the scheduled tax relief provided for by the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001 passed by a bipartisan majority in Congress should not be suspended or repealed.

(2) The joint resolution (H.J. Res. 82) recognizing the 91st birthday of Ronald Reagan.

(3) The resolution (H. Res. 340) recognizing and honoring Jack Shea, Olympic gold medalist in speed skating, for his many contributions to the Nation and to his community throughout his life.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

(Mr. HASTINGS of Washington asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, this resolution provides that it shall be in order at any time on the legislative day of Wednesday, February 6, 2002, for the Speaker to entertain motions that the House suspend the rules relating to the following measures: the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 312, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the scheduled tax relief provided for by the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001, passed by a bipartisan majority in Congress, should not be suspended or repealed;

Second, the joint resolution, H.J. Res. 82, recognizing the 91st birthday of our 40th President, Ronald Reagan; and,

Three, the resolution, H. Res. 340, recognizing and honoring Jack Shea, Olympic gold medalist in speed skating, for his many contributions to the Nation and to his community throughout his life.

Mr. Speaker, following the adoption of this rule, the House will take up H. Con. Res. 312, expressing our collective will that the bipartisan tax relief plan passed by the Congress and signed into law by President Bush should take effect as scheduled.

Recently, several Members of Congress have proposed that key provisions of the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act should be repealed, delayed, or postponed. H. Con. Res. 312 reiterates our full commitment to all tax relief provisions in this act, including the across-the-board tax cuts, the marriage penalty relief, the elimination of the death tax, doubling of the per-child tax credit and IRA expansion.

Further, H. Con. Res. 312 states that repealing or delaying provisions of President Bush's tax relief plan would in fact constitute a tax increase; that increasing taxes during a recession would hurt the economy and American workers; and that Congress should work with the President to promote long-term economic growth through a fair Tax Code that puts the least possible burden on taxpayers.

□ 1030

Mr. Speaker, last June when the President signed into law the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001, it provided millions of American taxpayers with the first meaningful tax relief they had had since 1981.

All Americans who pay Federal income taxes have benefited from the act and will benefit from our vote today, making it clear that we have no intention of weakening or softening in any way our commitment to provide the relief that they were promised, especially not now, when to do so would weaken the economy and further endanger the well-being of millions of lower- and middle-income American workers and their families.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this rule so