

fiscal year, which starts today, the CBO estimates a unified budget deficit of \$145 billion and a deficit of \$315 billion when the Social Security surplus is excluded.

Now, while Members of both parties argue over the specific reasons for the shift from surpluses to deficits, the fact remains that the Federal budget is now in the red and will remain in the red for the foreseeable future. Further, though our country's anticipated effort to disarm Saddam Hussein's weapons of mass destruction is necessary, any future action in Iraq will increase Federal spending and almost certainly expand deficits in the near future.

In light of our current and anticipated deficits, the Blue Dogs believe that the Congress must take several vitally important steps to return our Federal budget to fiscal health and fiscal responsibility.

For starters, the other body needs to extend the pay-go provision of the Budget Enforcement Act, which expired just yesterday. Our country is in real danger of suffering from a budget hangover in the aftermath of this fiscal new year. As we all know, pay-go restrains the natural tendencies of Congress to overspending by renewing enforceable spending limits. As called for in the Blue Dogs' ABC budget plan, Congress can take the necessary first step towards reestablishing balanced budgets and possibly budget surpluses.

As Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan noted recently in his September 12 testimony before the Committee on the Budget, "The pay-go rules served as useful tools to control the deficits. In essence, the rules provided a means for advancing the broader good of sound fiscal policy over narrower interests."

Chairman Greenspan went on to assert that "now is not the time to abandon the discipline and structure that worked so well for so long. The framework enacted in the Budget Enforcement Act of 1990 and extended several times must be preserved."

But the pay-go rules to which Congress has adhered for the past decade are not an end to themselves. They serve only as a means to very important ends. The people of east Texas in my district have felt the negative impact of the national economic downturn, and seniors in my district need assurances that Congress will not end up raiding the Social Security fund to make up for budget shortfalls.

During 2001, Congress and the President promised to secure the Social Security Trust Fund surplus in a so-called lockbox. The Democrats proposed a true lockbox. The Republican lockbox had a trap door and is nothing more than a figment of their collective imagination. Our country's anticipated budget deficits will siphon money out of the Social Security Trust Fund for years and years and years and years to come.

Last year a number of Blue Dogs, including myself, introduced the Restore

Fiscal Discipline and Safeguard Social Security Act. This legislation, which would require Congress and the President to have a midyear review if the CBO projects ongoing deficits during its annual budget reestimates in August, is an important step toward ensuring the continued existence of the Social Security Trust Fund.

Unfortunately, the Blue Dogs' efforts to offer this measure on the House floor were repeatedly denied by the Republican House leadership. Budget deficits have consequences and are financed by sacrificing national priorities like Social Security and Medicare.

The Federal Government is projected to borrow nearly all of the Social Security surpluses to pay for the deficits in the remainder of the budget. We are scheduled to borrow nearly all of it, \$964 billion over the next 5 years, and more than \$2 trillion over the next 10 years.

Mr. Speaker, deficit spending to compensate for a downturn in the economy and a war in Iraq should not jeopardize the retirement security of our Nation's seniors, who in most cases have contributed to the Social Security system for all of their working lives.

In addition to preserving Social Security for current and future generations, the Blue Dogs continue to work for fiscal discipline in an effort to lower long-term interest rates. Congress has a significant role to play in keeping the growth of long-term interest rates in check through the enforcement of fiscal discipline.

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According to Alan Greenspan in his testimony, "If you watch the way markets behave, long-term interest rates, both real and nominal, are affected in a significant manner by the long-term fiscal outlook, and when you change the long-term fiscal outlook or, more exactly, when the markets perceive a change in the long-term fiscal outlook, interest rates react immediately."

Lower interest rates represent a de facto tax cut for millions of American families and serve as an effective economic stimulus as families and individuals save money on their mortgages, save money on their car loans, save money on their credit cards payments, save money on all consumer debt. It is the best tax cut of all for American families.

The Blue Dogs remain committed to strong economic growth which does not represent party labels and it benefits all Americans. Fiscal responsibility includes transparent budgeting, paying down the debt, balancing the budget, and keeping our commitment to respect our seniors and invest in the children of America.

Let us give the budget debate the time it deserves. Let us do it now. Let us stay here hour to hour, day to day, week to week and, yes, month to month until the important work of the people is complete.

We need a prescription drug plan. We need legislation to protect pensions and to jail corporate thieves. We need a true Patients' Bill of Rights. We need to protect Social Security from privatization. To address these needs we need a firm financial foundation.

Mr. Speaker, to address these needs we need a fiscally responsible budget. Let us do it. Let us do it now. Let us take the time to do the people's work.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. BECERRA (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today on account of personal reasons.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today and the balance of the week on account of official business.

Ms. MCKINNEY (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today on account of a family emergency.

Mr. MASCARA (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today on account of illness in the family.

Mr. MENENDEZ (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today on account of a death in the family.

Mr. TANNER (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today and October 2 on account of a death in the family.

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. SANDLIN) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GREEN of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. FILNER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. NORTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. ETHERIDGE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. MALONEY of New York, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFazio, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. HONDA, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PAYNE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. DAVIS of California, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. UNDERWOOD, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. SLAUGHTER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SAWYER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SHERMAN, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. LOFGREN, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. LEE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WATSON of California, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. FARR of California, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SPRATT, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. OBEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. SOLIS, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. OWENS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. FALCOMA-VAEGA, for 5 minutes, today.

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, for 5 minutes, today, October 2 and 3.

Mr. PAUL, for 5 minutes, October 2 and 3.

Mr. GUTKNECHT, for 5 minutes, October 2.

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota, for 5 minutes, October 2.

Mr. SOUDER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PENCE, for 5 minutes, October 2.

Mr. DREIER, for 5 minutes, today and October 2.

BILL PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Jeff Trandahl, Clerk of the House reports that on September 30, 2002 he presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bill.

H.R. 1646. To authorize appropriations for the Department of State for fiscal year 2003, to authorize appropriations under the Arms Export Control Act and the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 for security assistance for fiscal year 2003, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 566, I move the House do now adjourn in memory of the late Hon. PATSY T. MINK.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 43 minutes p.m.), pursuant to House Resolution 566, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, October 2, 2002, at 10 a.m. in memory of the late Hon. PATSY T. MINK.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

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

9437. A letter from the Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Minimum Quality and Handling Standards for Domestic and Imported Peanuts Marketed in the United States and Termination of the Peanut Marketing Agreement and Associated Rules and Regulations [Docket No. FV02-996-1 IFR] received September 26, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

9438. A letter from the Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Oranges, Grape-

fruit, Tangerines, and Tangelos Grown in Florida; Limiting the Volume of Small Red Seedless Grapefruit [Docket No. FV02-905-5 IFR] received September 26, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

9439. A letter from the Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Vidalia Onions Grown in Georgia; Revision of Reporting and Assessment Requirements [Docket No. FV02-955-1 FIR] received September 26, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

9440. A letter from the Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Nectarines Grown in California; Decreased Assessment Rate [Docket No. FV02-916-2 FIR] received September 26, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

9441. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Sucrose Octanoate Esters; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance [OPP-2002-0016; FRL-7199-1] received September 24, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

9442. A letter from the Principal Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Pseudozyma flocculosa strain PF-A22 UL; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance [OPP-2002-0233; FRL-7198-8] received September 24, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

9443. A letter from the Comptroller General, General Accounting Office, transmitting a report of deferrals of budget authority for information technology and business management systems that should have been, but were not, reported to the Congress by the President, pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 685; (H. Doc. No. 107-269); to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

9444. A letter from the Comptroller, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's letter certifying that the current Future Years Defense Program fully funds the support costs associated with the UH-60/MH-60 multiyear program; to the Committee on Armed Services.

9445. A letter from the General Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Final Flood Elevation Determinations — received September 27, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

9446. A letter from the General Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Changes in Flood Elevation Determinations [Docket No. FEMA-D-7527] received September 27, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

9447. A letter from the General Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Changes in Flood Elevation Determinations — received September 27, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

9448. A letter from the Director, Cooperative and State Programs, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's final rule — Changes to State Plans: Revision of Process for Submission, Review and Approval of State Plan Changes [Docket No. T-035] (RIN: 1218-AB91) received September 25, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

9449. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Department of Health and Human

Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — State Children's Health Insurance Program; Eligibility for Prenatal Care and Other Health Services for Unborn Children [CMS-2127-F] (RIN: 0938-AL37) received September 27, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9450. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — OMB Approvals Under the Paperwork Reduction Act; Technical Amendment [FRL-7381-4] received September 24, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9451. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — State Implementation Plan Revisions for Ozone (1-Hour Standard), California — San Joaquin Valley [CA-084-FON; FRL-7387-9] received September 26, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9452. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of State Implementation Plans; Ohio [OH153-1a; FRL-7386-9] received September 26, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9453. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Louisiana; Baton Rouge Nonattainment Area; Ozone; 1-Hour Ozone Attainment Demonstration; Attainment Date Extension, and Withdrawal of Nonattainment Determination and Reclassification [FRL-7387-5] received September 26, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9454. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Revocation of Significant New Uses of Certain Chemical Substances [OPPT-2002-0030; FRL-7186-9] (RIN: 2070-AB27) received September 24, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9455. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Industry Codes and Standards; Amended Requirements (RIN: 3150-AG61) received September 26, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9456. A letter from the Director, International Cooperation, Department of Defense, transmitting a copy of Transmittal No. 28-02 which informs of our intent to sign an Amendment to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, Denmark, The Netherlands, Norway, Italy, Turkey and Australia concerning the Cooperative Framework for the System Development and Demonstration (SDD) Phase of the Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) Program and the Australian Supplement between the United States and Australia, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2767(f); to the Committee on International Relations.

9457. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting certification for FY 2003 that no United Nations organization or United Nations affiliated agency grants and official status, accreditation, or recognition to any organization which promotes, condones, or seeks the legalization of pedophilia, or which includes as a subsidiary or member any such organization, pursuant to Public Law 103—