

While this budget is being touted for fighting terrorism, the bulk of the funding is committed to buying weapons systems designed or conceived during the Cold War. The missile defense system, a knockoff of President Reagan's failed Star Wars missile defense program, gets \$8 billion in the Republican budget, even though it is not clear that this system will ever work or ever defend the United States from any of the actual threats that we actually face. In fact, it has failed test after test after test.

In addition to massive new spending on dated military technologies, the Republican budget also includes provisions that would cut taxes by \$591 billion over the next 10 years, making last year's tax cut permanent and providing a host of new tax cuts to America's wealthiest companies like Enron, IBM, American Airlines, Ford, GM, and to the wealthiest individuals in this country. The share of these tax cuts going to the top 1 percent of wage earners, top 1 percent richest people, would exceed the share going to the bottom 80 percent. The top 1 percent receives 45 percent of the tax cut's benefits even though they now pay only 21 percent of Federal taxes. The bottom 80 percent gets only 28 percent of the tax cut's benefits with an average cut of only \$430.

Republicans claim the typical family of four will be able to get, quote, at least \$1,600 more of their own money when the plan is fully effective. However, more than 85 percent of taxpayers will get less than that amount. Many will get nothing. One-third of families with children receive no tax cut at all. More than half of all black and Hispanic families will receive nothing under this plan, even though 75 percent of those families have at least one working parent.

Under this plan, a single mother with two children and a \$22,000 annual income gets zero from the tax cut. A retired widow with no children and an income of \$30,000 would get \$300 but a couple making \$550,000 with no children would get a tax break of \$19,000.

Unfortunately, once we are done paying for military spending increases and new tax cuts, there is little left for other pressing concerns. For the last many years, literally millions of retired seniors have not been able to afford the medicines they need. We have all talked about this in our campaigns. Yet the President's budget includes only \$190 billion for Medicare modernization and prescription drugs. It is not anywhere near the amount to fill the prescription drug gap in the Medicare program.

Bipartisan estimates say that to ensure that retirees have access to adequate, just adequate, prescription drug benefit coverage would cost at least \$700 billion over 10 years. The President's budget has only \$190 billion. The Republican budget we will vote on tomorrow has only \$300 billion, because of the tax cuts. It will cost the Nation

much more than that if we remain indifferent to the possible trade-offs that seniors face every day when it comes to their health. Our senior citizens are being forced to ration health care, not based on cost effectiveness, but on how far they can stretch a fixed income to pay for exorbitantly expensive medicines.

The U.S. is the wealthiest nation on earth. We are not a drug industry puppet. We must do better by our seniors. Investing too little in prescription drug benefits is like paying to put half a roof on our house.

Mr. Speaker, I am afraid the Republican budget with huge tax cuts is taking us down the same road we traveled last year. We will not be able to do other things that Americans are demanding of us.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 7 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

Rabbi Joseph F. Mendelsohn, Heska Amuna Synagogue, Knoxville, Tennessee, offered the following prayer:

The prayer I am about to offer is not original, rather it is read by Jewish congregations throughout the United States every Saturday morning during Sabbath services.

Our God and God of our ancestors, we ask Your blessings for our country, for its government, for its leaders and advisors, and for all who exercise just and rightful authority. Help them to administer all affairs of state fairly, that peace and security, happiness and prosperity, justice and freedom may forever abide in our midst.

Creator of all flesh, bless all the inhabitants of our country with Your spirit. May citizens of all races and creeds forge a common bond in true harmony to banish all hatred and bigotry and to safeguard the ideals and free institutions which are the pride and glory of our country.

May this land under Your Providence be an influence for good throughout the world, uniting all people in peace and freedom and helping them to fulfill the vision of Your Prophet: "Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they experience war any more."

And let us say, Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. DUNCAN led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING RABBI JOSEPH MENDELSON OF HESKA AMUNA SYNAGOGUE, KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE

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

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, we are privileged to have as our guest chaplain today Rabbi Joseph Mendelsohn of the Heska Amuna Synagogue in Knoxville, Tennessee, to lead us in our opening prayer. Heska Amuna, loosely translated, means "stronghold of faith," and "strong faith" are words that could certainly be used about the life of Rabbi Mendelsohn.

This is the first time since I have been a Member of the House, and I am in my 14th year now, this is the first time I have had a member of the clergy from my district lead us in prayer, and I am very honored.

Rabbi Mendelsohn was a longtime congregant and leader in conservative Jewish congregations throughout California. He became so dedicated to his faith that he decided to fulfill his dream of becoming a full-time member of the rabbinical clergy.

Known in Knoxville as "Rabbi Joe," he has been well received, not just by his congregation, but also by his fellow clergymen of all faiths in east Tennessee. Apparently he is doing a great

job, because the congregation has seen a very significant increase in membership since his arrival.

Pace and Karen Robinson, two well-respected and long-time members of the congregation, said, "We are glad that Rabbi Joe came to Knoxville and became a part of our community by leading us into the 21st century."

Rabbi Mendelsohn is one of the finest men I have ever met, and I am honored to have him as our guest chaplain for the United States House of Representatives on this occasion.

PRIVATE CALENDAR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is the day for the call of the Private Calendar. The Clerk will call the bill on the Private Calendar.

NANCY B. WILSON

The Clerk called the bill (H.R. 392) for the relief of Nancy B. Wilson.

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be passed over without prejudice.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

SUDAN

(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, I rise to raise again the policies of the government of Sudan and its treatment of its people.

Christians, Muslims, and Animists who do not submit to the Khartoum regime's control are targeted for destruction.

In addition to its daily war against the Sudan's people, which includes destroying villages, killing the men and selling women and children into slavery, the government issues draconian punishments for crimes.

One recent report details an 18-year-old illiterate Christian, Abok Alva Akok, who was raped but was sentenced to death because she could not produce the four male witnesses required under Muslim Sharia law.

International outcry caused her sentence to be overturned, but the court then sentenced her to a "rebuke" of 75 lashes, carried out immediately. During the proceedings, she was denied legal representation.

Mr. Speaker, the Khartoum regime not only denies justice to the Sudan's people, gives out harsh punishments, and permits active slave trade, but also is carrying out a brutal war to destroy the people of southern Sudan.

Khartoum's brutal policies must be stopped.

STOP THE RAID ON SOCIAL SECURITY

(Mr. SANDLIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, we must stop the raid on Social Security in this country. Last year, the administration stood in front of the United States Congress and promised us. My budget protects all \$2.6 trillion of the Social Security surplus for Social Security and Social Security alone.

Later in the year, leadership on the other side of the aisle said, The House of Representatives is not going to go back to raiding the Social Security and Medicare trust funds.

Yet, the reality is that the Republican budget did not protect the Social Security fund. Despite voting five times for the Social Security lockbox, today we are breaking that promise and raiding Social Security, to the tune of \$1.8 trillion.

Blue Dogs and other conservative Democrats across the country warned that the shaky projections of surplus, on which much of last year's budget was based, could so easily turn into deficits. That prediction has come true.

We are now being asked to consider another budget proposal that does not even try to disguise the raid on the Social Security surplus. Thirty-two million current retirees depend on Social Security income, and that number is increasing. Congress must stop this attack on Social Security.

IN A WARTIME BUDGET, CONGRESS PUTS FIRST THINGS FIRST

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, we are not raiding Social Security, not one penny. Back home in the Lone Star State, we say, "Don't mess with Texas." To the terrorists, I say, "Don't mess with the U.S." We are at war, and this is a wartime budget, putting first things first.

Here are three of them:

National security tops the list, homeland security tops the list, and economic security tops the list. Also, this will be the largest increase in defense spending in over 20 years.

This wartime budget gives President Bush all the resources necessary to meet the Nation's top priorities: winning the war, strengthening our homeland security, investing in the future of our Armed Forces, and keeping our promises to our veterans.

A vote for this wartime budget is a vote for America's freedom. A vote for this wartime budget is a vote for America's security.

BUDGET, DEBT, AND SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. PASCARELL. Mr. Speaker, let us face the facts: Without last year's tax cut, we could have paid our entire Federal debt by 2008. That occurred before September 11. That is the fact.

Even with already dipping into Social Security, this budget proposes new tax cuts. In fact, the gentleman from Illinois (Speaker HASTERT) said he wants to make the Bush tax cuts permanent. Both of these actions would divert money that could have been used to strengthen Social Security and pay down the national debt.

In the post-tax cut budget world we now live in, the national debt will still exist far into the future. Prior to the tax cut, it was projected that from 2002 to 2011, the government would owe \$709 billion in interest. We pay over \$1 billion of interest on the debt every day. That is scandalous.

Members can shake their heads all they want. That is a fact of life. They should look at their own budget. Without a surplus, I do not know how we can protect the long-term solvency of Social Security or Medicare.

INDO-AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP RESTORED

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, last Tuesday I welcomed to Capitol Hill India's Ambassador to the United States, Lalit Mansingh, and Minister Ajay Swarup. I applaud the Indian government, one of the world's two largest democracies, for fighting the common enemy of international terrorism. Together, America and India can make South Asia and the world a safer place.

I am happy to see economic ties with India booming. Trade increased since 1991 from \$15 million to \$15 billion today, and 2 million Indian-Americans have enriched America with their business acumen.

With the victory of democracy in the Cold War, friendship has been restored between the people of India and America. I support President Bush's initiatives in building a strong partnership between America and India.

I commend the efforts of Ambassador Mansingh and Minister Swarup in their efforts to bring America and India closer together as allies.

URGING COLLEAGUES TO SUPPORT THE BUDGET RESOLUTION, WHICH LEAVES NO VETERAN BEHIND

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

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, next year there will be 700,000 more unique veteran patients in the VA health care network than were projected just 1 year ago. And as our veteran population continues to age and