

Arabs have been reported crossing the Arizona border for an unknown period. Border rancher George Morgan encounters thousands of illegals crossing his ranch on a well-used trail. He relates a holiday event:

"It was Thanksgiving, 1998, and I stepped outside my house and there were over 100 crossers in my yard. Damnedest bunch of illegals I ever saw. All of them were wearing black pants, white shirts and string ties. Maybe they were hoping to blend in," he chuckled. "They took off. I called the Border Patrol, and a while later Agent Dan Green let me know that they had been caught. He said all were Iranians."

According to Border Patrol spokesman Rob Daniels, 10 Egyptians were arrested recently near Douglas, Arizona. Each had paid \$7,000 to be brought from Guatemala into Mexico and then across the border.

According to the San Diego Union Tribune, hours after the 9-11 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, an anonymous caller led Mexican immigration officials to 41 undocumented Iraqis waiting to cross into the United States.

The Associated Press reported that Mexican immigration police detained 13 citizens of Yemen on September 24, 2001, who reportedly were waiting to cross the border into Arizona. The Yemenis were arrested Sunday in Agua Prieta, across the border from Douglas. Luis Teran Balaguer, in the northern state of Sonora, said the evidence indicates that they have nothing to do with terrorist activities.

The Agua Prieta newspaper clearly did not agree with his assessment. The editor, Jose Noriega Durazo, claimed in a front page El Ciarin headline, "Arab terrorists were here." He quoted Agua Prieta police officials as identifying the 13 Yemenis as terrorists.

Reportedly the Mexican immigration police returned the Yemenis to a federal detention center near Mexico City, but the new information would indicate they were released and returned to Agua Prieta.

Carlos Carrillo, assistant chief, U.S. Border Patrol, Tucson Sector, told WorldNetDaily in a telephone interview Monday that nine Yemenis were reportedly holed up in a hotel in the border town of Agua Prieta, Sonora. "We have passed the tip on to the FBI," he said. When pressed for information, he said he could not confirm the number, because they were under OP/SEC, which is a counter-intelligence acronym for "operations security."

The Border Patrol field patrol agent, who spoke anonymously, confirmed the presence of nine Yemenis. The agent said they could not get a coyote to transport them, and they are offering \$30,000 per person, with no takers.

The article goes on. Some people are being offered \$50,000, specifically of Arab descent. This is happening at the same time that we are debating wheth-

er or not we actually can control our own borders or whether we should.

Today I had an interesting discussion with a member of the press, specifically a lady I think from USA Today, and it became apparent after a short time she was annoyed with the fact that I was pressing for border control. She put the pad away for a second and talked to me, you know, sort of "off the record"; and she said you cannot really expect to do this. We are going to turn into a police state. Are you really going to try to keep these people out?

So I said to her, Tell me the alternative to trying to defend the border. Just tell me what you think the alternative is? It is to abandon it. There is no other way.

You have two options. You either defend the border as well as you possibly can, and it does not mean we will absolutely be sure that no one will ever be able to get into the country without our permission. Of course not.

□ 2100

But we do everything that we can do, just like the President has said that we are going to do outside the country. He said we are going to do everything we have to do.

I ask the President to do everything that he can do, and I certainly will do everything I can do, and I will ask my colleagues in this body to do everything that we as a body can do to stop people from coming into the United States illegally, because it is dangerous.

It is not just the person coming across to get a job in a factory or a field somewhere. We cannot discriminate. We do not know. It is not easy to determine which one is coming across illegally for some purpose that is benign and which one is coming across illegally for some purpose that is quite deadly. It is impossible for us to know that.

We have only one ability, only one charge, only one responsibility. That is to defend the border against all people coming across illegally. It is our responsibility as a Congress, and although there are many people who shy away from it, who are frightened by that because they know that politically we will be attacked by the immigration support groups and various other organizations, and by people who in fact have as their purpose, even here in this body, there are many reasons that many people vote against tightening immigration laws. Some are directly political.

Some people know that massive numbers of immigrants coming into the United States, legally and illegally, will end up supporting the Democratic Party, and therefore they say, we do not want to reduce immigration, whether we are talking legal or illegal.

Many people on our side are split in that Libertarian camp that say, "I want open borders," or say, "I want cheap labor." That is the problem we deal with here.

But I ask all of my colleagues to overcome those very parochial, partisan interests in the hope of and in the desire to try and defend America as successfully as we are doing in Afghanistan. It is imperative that we do it here, also. Our very Nation's survival is at risk.

We recognize that, and we respond to the call that the President makes when we appropriate money and in every other way indicate our support for the effort to fight terrorism overseas. But why, why, Madam Speaker, is it so hard for us to get the same job done here in the United States?

It should be the first place we look, it should be the first thing we do, because the defense of this country begins at the defense of its borders.

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY AND THE BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MOORE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. MOORE. Madam Speaker, last year it was announced by the Congressional Budget Office that, and I am talking about February of last year, that the projected surplus over the next 10 years would be approximately \$5.6 trillion. At that time, the surpluses ran as far as the eye could see, and everybody was talking about the surpluses and how we might use those surpluses to benefit our country.

In fact, the debate at that time was how we might use those surpluses to pay down our national debt, which was approximately \$5.7 trillion at that time. The debate was how much we should pay down our surplus and whether we should pay down our surplus or if we should pay down our surplus, if we might pay it down too fast. In fact, Chairman Alan Greenspan of the Federal Reserve Board said there would be some danger in paying down our national debt too quickly.

Well, that problem has been solved. We no longer have surpluses. In fact, and I am not pointing fingers or blaming anybody here, but as the result of an economic slowdown, as a result of the horrible tragedy that confronted our Nation on September 11 last year, the economy slowed down, number one. It was really put into a tailspin on September 11. The surpluses have virtually disappeared.

In fact, the \$5.6 trillion surplus last year that was projected over the next 10 years this year, in February of this year, was projected by the Congressional Budget Office to be approximately \$1.6 trillion. Somebody said to me when I was back home, what did you all do with the other \$4 trillion? I said, well, it was a projected surplus. Projections are hopes for the future.

In fact, I speak virtually every weekend when I go home to either college classes or high school classes, government classes. I remember several

months ago speaking to one high school government class. I was talking to them about the virtues of fiscal responsibility and paying down our national debt, and what Chairman Greenspan has taught us about long-term interest rates benefiting and being lowered as a result of fiscal responsibility and fiscal restraint.

I talked to this class about surpluses and deficits, and I said finally to the class, these high school seniors in the government class, "How would you define a projected surplus?" One girl raised her hand, and she said, "Maybe yes, maybe no." I thought, what a great definition. She could probably give good instruction to some of our colleagues here in Congress who think that we can spend projected surpluses, which we know not to be the case.

It is often said that our children are our future. I think no issue goes more directly to the heart of our Nation's future than the debt limit, because what we do now and what we do in the future is going to affect our children, our grandchildren, and their children, because they are going to have to pay off the debt, whatever debt we accumulate.

I think, again, Congress could learn something from our children and do something better for our children. Apparently, Congress is one of the only groups that has not heard that surpluses can disappear, and now we are paying the price and have to make some tough choices.

The President wants to raise and Secretary O'Neill wants to raise the debt limit by roughly \$750 billion. This would raise the public debt from \$5.95 trillion to \$6.65 trillion. I am asking, and again, I am not here to lay blame or point fingers; certainly, the recession I do not believe was the President's fault, and certainly September 11 was not the President's fault. The Congress and the administration should take a hard look at our long-term budget priorities before writing a huge blank check, though, of \$750 billion.

I believe it is irresponsible to raise borrowing limits today without planning to protect our children and grandchildren from the consequences of our debt in the future. Lower numbers would be more acceptable at this time. I believe our discussion of the debt limit should be part of an overall discussion as to how to balance the budget.

We cannot throw away and we should not throw away all the progress we made over the last several years in terms of fiscal responsibility in this country. There was a lot of pain involved, and I think we learned some tough lessons, but I think Chairman Greenspan is exactly right: If we can show fiscal responsibility and fiscal restraint, it is going to have a beneficial impact on long-term interest rates, and that affects everybody in this country who borrows money for a mortgage, for a car loan, or any other type of consumer loan.

Too many people in Congress, both sides, Republicans and Democrats, worked too hard to balance the budget to so easily slip back into our old habits. I hope that does not happen.

The President said several times, and I agree with the President wholeheartedly, there are a couple of times when it is appropriate and sometimes necessary to engage in deficit spending, short-term deficit spending. One is in time of war, and the other is in time of recession.

We were in recession, we are told now we are coming out of recession, but we may still be in a time of war. I do not begrudge what the President has done and what Congress has done in supporting the President in terms of some deficit spending. But what I do want and what I think we desperately need in this country is a plan to get us back to fiscal responsibility when the threat to our Nation is past.

When they borrow, when families and businesses put together plans to pay off their debt, I go home virtually every weekend and I hear from families that they live by three simple rules, and they wish Congress would as well: Number one, do not spend more money than you make; number two, pay off your debts; number three, invest in the basics and for our future.

The basics for the country are national security, national defense, Social Security, Medicare, some transportation, things of that nature. The basics for a family are food, shelter, education, health care, and all the things that I think we could agree on.

I really think that Congress and this country need to be more like families in managing their budgets. Our government really should not be any different. We need a long-term plan to pay off our debt. Raising the debt limit by \$750 billion just allows Congress to continue its free-spending ways. We should not give a blank check to a Congress that has proven it cannot control its own spending.

Several of my colleagues and I have offered a substitute budget that would raise the debt limit by approximately \$100 billion to \$150 billion up to the end of this fiscal year, September 30 of 2002. This would prevent a fiscal default, it would stabilize markets, and it gives Congress and the President time to develop a long-term plan to return to balanced budgets and fiscal responsibility.

We should not play partisan games with the financial health of our country. An unprecedented Federal default would wreak havoc on our economy. But that is only slightly worse than the bleak outlook we will leave our children if we do not get back to fiscal restraint and fiscal responsibility.

Higher debts now mean higher taxes for our children, and that is grossly, grossly unfair. We are willing to raise the debt limit, but it must be part of a plan to balance the budget and stop spending the Social Security surpluses. Nothing less than our future and the future of our children and future generations in our country is at stake.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. TURNER).

Mr. TURNER. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Kansas for yielding to me. It is good to be here on this floor tonight with our fellow Blue Dog Democrats, who have consistently stood up in this Congress for fiscal responsibility.

I think all of us tonight have a great deal of concern about the suggestion that we increase our statutory debt ceiling, because we all know that the statutory debt ceiling is the last remaining line of defense to protect us from total fiscal irresponsibility in Washington.

We all thought that there was another line that protected us from fiscal irresponsibility, and that is the pledge of this Congress never to spend the Social Security trust fund monies on anything other than Social Security.

Back in 1997, all of us here tonight were present when we voted for the Balanced Budget Act of 1997. It reversed a trend that had been present in the Federal Government for 30 years of spending every year more money than the government took in. And for 3 years after that Balanced Budget Act, we actually had a surplus in the every-one.

As the gentleman from Kansas pointed out, just a year ago it was projected that we would have over \$5.6 trillion in surplus funds flowing into the Federal Treasury over the next decade, but then came a major tax cut, a recession, and a war. That surplus has disappeared.

This year, for the first time in the last 4 years, the Congress is looking at a budget that will once again return us into deficit spending, will rob the Social Security trust funds of those payroll taxes that are paid in by the working people of this country for Social Security, and that money will once again be spent to run the general government. That is wrong. And since we have crossed that line of spending Social Security trust fund monies, something that we pledged on the floor of this House not to do at least half a dozen times in votes cast by the Members here, there is no other protection against fiscal irresponsibility except the statutory debt ceiling. That is that limit in law that says that the Federal Government cannot go over a total of \$5.9 trillion into debt.

Most of us cannot understand how in the world we ever got in a position that we would authorize over \$5 trillion in debt, but when the administration comes to this Congress and says that we have to increase the debt ceiling by \$750 billion, any Member who is fiscally conservative will say, wait a minute, where is the line of defense to protect us from fiscal irresponsibility now? It will be gone.

Now, we all understand that in times of national emergency, there may be justification for a short period of deficit spending if we are in a war, as we are now. The recession has brought

Federal revenues down. It could be that the emergency presented by war would say in the short term deficit spending may be necessary, but only short term.

What we have projected now by the Congressional Budget Office is a decade of ever-increasing national debt.

□ 2115

Deficit spending is wrong. We would not do it at our house or yours. We would not do it in your business or mine because we know it just would not work. We all understand that we need to pay our debts. Why cannot Washington understand that same principle? The reason is that government can print money, and we are going to continue to print money if we increase the statutory debt ceiling, and that debt is going to be owed by our children and by our grandchildren.

Our debt today costs this country and the taxpayers of this Nation almost a billion dollars a day just to cover the interest payments on that national debt. What a waste of resources. Think what we could do if we could save that almost billion dollars every day we spend on interest. Talk about waste in government. The biggest item of waste in government today is the almost billion dollars that we pay every day in interest on that national debt.

So the Blue Dog Democrats believe that holding the line on increasing the debt ceiling is the only way to protect this Congress from continuing down that reckless path of going deeper and deeper and deeper into debt. I think we all understand that when we are in war, as I said a moment ago, we may have to do deficit spending in the short term; and we would all understand if there was a proposal before this House to increase the debt ceiling enough to cover the needs of national defense in time of war, but that is not what the proposal is. The proposal is many times over that amount, and it is designed to allow this Congress to continue down a road of deficit spending for at least another 2 years.

We have got to hold the line. We need to stand up for limiting the amount of increase in the debt ceiling. It is our only line of defense in order to prevent this Congress from fiscal irresponsibility.

We all know that increasing debt is morally reprehensible. Why should we spend money today, whether it is for defense or any other purpose, and expect our children some day to pay for it?

We are in a war today. Many men and women are in uniform in faraway places tonight, defending freedom, fighting for this country. They are making a tremendous sacrifice, and yet it seems that the American people are not being called on to join in that sacrifice because the American people have been given a pass, a pass that says, you do not have to pay for this war now. You can let your children pay for it.

So when those young men and women in uniform return to our country and begin to enter the workforce and build their careers and their life savings, they would have to look forward to paying for the war that they fought in the first part of the 21st century.

Now that is wrong. And the only way we can stop it is to hold the line on the request to increase the debt ceiling in our law.

We know that as we continue to increase debt, the demand for credit from our government increases, and it has the effect, the economists tell us, of increasing the interest rate on all kinds of loans sought by American families. So if we continue down the road of fiscal irresponsibility and allow this debt to continue to mount and mount and mount, not only do we have increasing interest costs to the Federal Government, but the cost of borrowing money for every American family will be higher because the Federal Government's appetite for credit pushes all interest rates up for everybody. So if you want to buy a car or buy a new home and finance it through a home mortgage, or send your kids to college and have to borrow the money to do it, you will pay higher interest rates in the years ahead because of the fiscal irresponsibility of your Federal Government.

We hope that the Members of this Congress will join with the Blue Dogs in standing up for fiscal responsibility, for paying down that \$5 trillion debt instead of allowing it to continue it to go up. That is an issue that is important to the American people and the American family, and our failure to deal with it responsibly will result in fiscal catastrophe for this country because we cannot continue to allow debt to mount higher and higher and higher.

So I am very hopeful that our colleagues in the House will join with the Blue Dog Democrats and stand up for the proposition that we should not increase the debt ceiling by the amount of money that has been requested, and preserve that one last line of defense for fiscal responsibility.

Mr. MOORE. Madam Speaker, at this time I would like to recognize another gentleman from Texas (Mr. STENHOLM), and I yield to him.

Mr. STENHOLM. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend for taking the time tonight to permit us again to discuss in what we hope are very rational, simple-to-understand terms what we are proposing.

About a year ago we stood on this floor in opposition to the budget that ultimately passed. We are in the minority. When you are in the minority you usually lose. But we also stood on the floor and offered some comments and some suggestions that we thought made a little bit of common sense.

That projected surplus that everybody was talking about was projected. It was a guesstimate. It was an estimate. It was not necessarily real. It was not necessarily unreal. But we thought the conservative thing to do

with our economic game plan for America was simply to take half of it and pay down the national debt. We were ridiculed by some saying that we were going to pay down the debt too fast.

Others suggested that it was the people's money and, therefore, we are going to give it back to them. Very popular suggestion. Some of us were also reminding people that it was the people's debt. Again, we were told do not worry about it. The national debt, the debt ceiling, is not going to have to be increased for 7 years. And we said, we hope you are right. We hope that these estimates are right. But just in case there may be an emergency, and we were not prophetic, no one could have foreseen September 11, 2001, but it happened.

We did not believe necessarily the stock market was going to go up forever. We have always recognized that there are going to be ups and downs; and we had just come through 8 years, the longest single economic expansion in the history of our country doing whatever we were doing until the 1990s, which happened to be beginning to balance the Federal budget.

And I give credit to my friends on the other side for being a part of that. And that is what we are here tonight saying, look at some of the things we did and said in the last 6 or 8 years and try to be a little bit consistent.

What we are suggesting is that some of the same things that occurred in 1996 in which the majority party, the same folks that are in control tonight, demanded that "The President of the United States and the Congress shall enact legislation in the first session of the 104th Congress to achieve a balanced budget not later than the fiscal year 2002 as estimated by the Congressional Budget Office."

What an irony. Here we are, March 19, 2002, recognizing that the balanced budgets that we have achieved over the last 2 or 3 years are now out the window as far as the eye can see. The President's budget that he submitted to the Congress does not balance without using Social Security for the next 10 years.

We Blue Dogs are suggesting that is irresponsible budgeting; that we, in fact, are not unreasonable to ask the leadership of this body in the budget tomorrow and in the actions coming up to submit a plan that will balance the Federal budget by 2007 without using Social Security trust funds. That is all that we ask.

Some of us have been here and voted consistently for these type of budgets. That is what I hope to do again tomorrow. But tonight we are calling attention to the fact that we believe it is irresponsible to ask the Congress to borrow \$750 billion without a plan of how we are going to get our budget back in balance, other than the plan that we are now under which, by their own administration, does not balance until, well, it does not. We do not go out past

10 years. In fact, this budget we will consider tomorrow is going out only 5; that is what is bothering us.

We are perfectly willing to vote for a clean debt ceiling increase with certain provisos. I do not want to see us go through what we did back in 1995 and 1996 in which we had members of the other party standing on this floor threatening to impeach Secretary Rubin for doing the things that we are now being told by the majority leadership that we are going to do, borrow on our employees, our civil service, military retirement, borrow on those retirement funds and temporarily suspend paying interest in order to get by. Why do that?

There are those of us in the Blue Dog coalition that are looking for a way to be bipartisan on something other than the war. I do not understand why the leadership of this House demands when it comes to fiscal policy that the only votes that will ever come on this floor are those that get 218 Republican votes, when there are some of us, we heard the gentleman from Texas (Mr. TURNER), we heard the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MOORE). We do not just say that we want to return to fiscal responsibility; we are prepared to act. But the budget that is submitted tomorrow by the chairman of the Committee on the Budget's own admission is not in balance.

And, again, I repeat what the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MOORE) said, 2003 is a different story. We are at war, an unusual war by the fact that it has not been declared by Congress and yet we are at war, and we understand that and we are perfectly willing to fund whatever it takes, both domestically and internationally, to cover that cost.

But why, we ask, would we want to just arbitrarily give a blank check to borrow \$750 billion without a plan of how we are going to use it? What are we going to spend it for? Why should we just arbitrarily send the bill to our children and grandchildren for \$750 billion additional, following an economic game plan that has already put us into a position where we cannot balance the budget for 10 years without going into the Social Security trust fund after we voted last year five times on the lockbox, cross my heart, we are not going to touch Social Security again. And yet, here we are, the first action of this year, we are going to do it again.

Not with my vote. But if we can have a little bit of cooperation, some of us submitted an alternative today that we will talk about tomorrow. But tonight we are just talking about a simple request.

□ 2130

What is it that is so wrong about submitting a plan that will get us to balance? What is it that is so right by sending a plan up that we have got to change the manner in which we score it? We agreed back in 1995 on a massive vote, and there were 148 of my friends on this side and 48 Democrats that

voted and said we want the President to submit a balanced budget. In fact, we demand that the President submit a balanced budget; and we want that budget to protect future generations, ensure Medicare solvency, reform welfare, provide adequate funding for Medicaid, education, agriculture, national defense, veterans, and the environment. Furthermore, the balanced budget shall adopt tax policies to help working families and to stimulate future economic growth. That is what we said in 1996; and we got 277 votes for it, including 48 Democrats, 229 Republicans.

What happened? If that is what we required President Clinton to do, why are we not equally asking President Bush, and I do not think it will take a whole lot of encouraging. I think this President will be amenable. In fact, I am almost sure he will be amenable, but why is that some on the other side refuse to bring that kind of a resolution to the floor and instead think of ways to circumvent, to circumvent the law of the land, to circumvent how we in fact avoid increasing the debt ceiling on a clean up and down vote, when the same folks and I will read quote after quote after quote of the same folks that said so many bad things when it was Secretary Rubin doing it?

We Blue Dogs pride ourselves in consistency. We are not perfect. I am sure that somebody will find something that I have done or said that is not totally consistent, but I bet I will be 90 percent consistent in saying let us submit a plan for how we balance our budget without touching Social Security and Medicare. As we Blue Dogs stood on this floor last year and argued for our budget in which we said take half of the projected surplus, pay down the debt, take the other half, divide it equally between the necessary increases in spending for defense, for education, for health care, for veterans and for agriculture, and the other 25 percent, a tax cut targeted at helping the economy and working families.

Well, we lost on our plan. If we had passed our plan, we would have been in a heck of a lot better shape tonight on all accounts, but today is a new year. Tonight we stand up again in asking, submit a balanced budget plan. Show us why we need to arbitrarily borrow \$750 billion. Show us what the money is going to be used for. The best way to do that is to go slow, to go slow. Do not just give us a blank check anymore than if you were a father and your son had just exceeded his credit card, and you are not going to go out and say, well, great, son, that was wonderful that you exceeded your limit, I am going to give you another \$2,000 on your credit card; just keep on doing whatever you have been doing. Families, we do not operate that way. We should not operate the country that way.

So tonight we are just, in fact, saying we are ready to support a plan. We will roll up our sleeves and work with

my colleagues on a plan. Try us. Just try us and see what might happen, instead of the partisanship that we see time and time again on economic issues. And here I will say if my colleagues sincerely believe in their budget, if they sincerely believe that it is in our Nation's best interest to borrow on our children's and grandchildren's grand future and the next 10 years and the Social Security trust fund, then just stay with my colleagues' budget and I will respect them for that.

Anybody that stands up on this floor and does what they say they believe in and stands behind it with their vote and argues for it, I will respect them; and I hope they respect those of us that have a little bit different version of this, and we will be arguing for that tomorrow, assuming we will be allowed to have our amendment on the floor tomorrow and have that amendment, which I certainly expect and hope that we will.

With these comments I would now yield back to the gentleman and to other of my colleagues who have come here to discuss this issue tonight, and I thank him for yielding.

Mr. MOORE. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. PHELPS).

Mr. PHELPS. Madam Speaker, proudly I stand here tonight, with my Blue Dog colleagues, a group that not only just offers rhetoric but is ready to back up what we say. That is why I am proud to be a member of this organization. We are consistent. We say what we mean with integrity and we intend to accomplish, if we have the cooperation from the other side of the aisle, what needs to be accomplished on behalf of this great Nation and the Americans that deserve the best attention.

So I want to thank my colleagues for their comments, for giving me this opportunity to speak on such important issues.

I want to make it clear that I understand the need for the President's increased investment in defense and homeland security. However, I do not want this to come at the cost of economic security for our folks at home.

First and foremost, we need a budget that is made up of honest numbers. One of the most frustrating things I have experienced since I have been a Member of Congress, now my second term, is to think we would go to the ultimate degree to press for investigating private corporations such as we are right in the midst of now, the Enrons, and saying you mean your accounting firms do not even know what is what, what the numbers are, no one can come forward and swear in front of our committees on a Bible that these are accurate numbers?

Yet we as elected officials from all across America cannot even agree what is in the bank or what is real or what is funny money or fuzzy or what is projected versus what we can really count on. We really know, if the honest truth was brought out, we really know, but

not very many in this political game will step forward and admit it because with that comes a price; and no matter what the price is, for me I have to tell my colleagues the honest truth about the honest numbers.

We need a budget that is honest in numbers. We need to base it on the CBO, Congressional Budget Office, and not the OMB, the Office of Management and Budget, estimates. We bring fiscal discipline to this body. The Blue Dogs and others that might share our philosophical positions bring fiscal discipline.

As a former teacher I always like to break down the real root words and meanings of words that we throw around that is supposed to mean a lot. Do my colleagues know where discipline comes from? The word disciple. We can reflect on disciples of Christ. Disciple means the ultimate example, someone to pattern your life after, to live by, to hold up in esteem, on a pedestal. That is what we are as elected officials. We are disciples, offering discipline when it comes to spending, with honest numbers. Let us follow the examples of the ultimate people of integrity in our history.

For the past couple of years, the Republican leadership has made promises to protect Social Security, but this budget is far from protecting Social Security. Many of my constituents depend on Social Security as a means of comfort after they have worked hard all their lives. I am talking about the most frail, elderly citizens, the lowest echelon of income in America.

The budget calls for tapping the Social Security trust fund to support other government programs every year for the next 10 years at the tune of \$1.5 trillion. Our Nation cannot afford to put our Social Security system at risk when it is depended on by so many of our most vulnerable citizens.

The budget must address the declining Social Security trust fund. We must pay down the public-held debt; and I know and I understand there is a serious question, whether we should increase the debt limit coming soon; but I believe we need to hold off on increasing the debt limit unless there are certain provisions that we can come to agreement on that would help preserve what we know is true with honest numbers until we can bring the budget into balance without putting the Social Security surplus into jeopardy. That is the balancing act. We can do it if we have the will.

As Americans, it is our job to work together to take care of our folks at home. As politicians, it is up to us to come up with the best possible way to do that. We need to work together. It is easy to say that every day we need to work together, to come up with a plan that will fight the war on terror but at the same time does not sacrifice the needs of our citizens at home.

The citizens in my district are downright puzzled, confused, as to where the surpluses went; and I know we have

outlined all the real things that happened that took our surpluses away. We can talk about September 11, a terrible event, still paying the price, probably will for several years to come, psychologically, emotionally, financially, economically, every way possible. The recession, played down, really underestimated, and yet was real and still is, and give away in whatever way you want to define spending up here.

Some say spending is when you want your project funded. Spending takes on a lot of different definitions since I have been here and found out. Spending is about what my colleagues want to accuse the other side of the aisle or the other people of using it for; but when it is for my colleagues' purposes, and the majority, it is not called spending. We use something else to justify what are not real numbers, honesty in budgeting.

Finally, the priorities. If we do not think it is priority for the Americans to entrust their elected officials to manage their money, how much did we hear about we want to return their money? What do my colleagues think Social Security is that is checked off of everybody's check every week for several years as these elderly people are now in the end of their life waiting for? The word "security" means stable, someone can depend on it. Not true. It is not true.

I just hope that we can work together, come up with a plan that will give some compromises to some, stipulative outline of issues that will bring us to a reasonable debt limit; and then when we get down to the end of the summer, early fall, we will know exactly where we stand; but until then, we better be cautious. We better be truthful with the American people and save Social Security, pay down the national debt, win the war on terrorism.

Can we do it? We are the greatest country in the world. I bet my colleagues we can do it.

Mr. MOORE. Madam Speaker, next I yield to the distinguished gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. TANNER).

Mr. TANNER. Madam Speaker, I am not going to add a lot to what my colleagues have said on the technical side of it. I just want to say that I came here from Tennessee in 1988; and when I came here, people said, John, please, if you get elected, go up there and do something about this horrendous national debt. We are borrowing more money every year as a people than we can pay back in our lifetimes, and we want you all to do something about it. Please, if you go up there, concentrate on retiring the debt and living within our means.

Now, we have tried to do that and I have been here, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. STENHOLM) has been here longer than I have, and this is hard. This is not easy. The easiest thing that anybody who seeks political office can do is to promise a road or a bridge or a dam and promise to cut taxes all at

the same time. That is what we hear on the stump, and this is really tough work that we are trying to do here as Blue Dogs because we are doing something that is oftentimes not politically expedient.

We do things that we hope are in the best interest of the country and our children that are not maybe politically popular today.

□ 2145

I mean, it is tough to stand here with a new President, as we did last year, and say we really need to slow down on all these projections and all of these ideas that money is flowing into Washington as far as the eye can see. That is what we were told.

We said, to be conservative in our own business, if it were our own business, we would not run it that way. We would not devote 100 percent of a projection for 10 years to a program that we did last year. We tried to say, that is not a conservative view, it is not the way we would run our own businesses. Why on earth do our colleagues want us to run the country's business that way?

So last year, as my colleague, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. STENHOLM), said, we were unsuccessful when we tried to say we need to slow down on this.

And the funniest thing I have heard since I have been here is when people around here actually, with a straight face, said that we are in danger of paying off the debt too quickly. That reminded me of a guy my size, weighs 400 pounds, and the first night on my diet somebody asks me how I feel and I say I am worried about becoming emaciated. To me, that was almost ludicrous, but that really is what we were told by people with a straight face.

As the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MOORE), the gentleman from Texas (Mr. STENHOLM), and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. TURNER) have said, nobody is prophetic. We do not know, I certainly do not know what the price of cotton is going to be next Friday, yet we are supposed to base how we conduct the business of our citizens of this country on these projections.

And by the way, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. PHELPS) was talking about us, and we do have a very special place here because we are privileged people to represent free men and women. That is an honor that none of us deserve, but as President Jimmy Carter said, the highest office in this land of ours is that of citizen, because a citizen is the owner of our country.

So we are very, very privileged people to be where we are, and with that privilege comes an awesome responsibility. And sometimes that responsibility is to do tough things; to say, look, in response to, we need to give the people their money back, it is theirs. Well, kids are people, too, and they do not have a voice here. But they are people, and there are a bunch of them that are not yet born, and we are

spending their money tomorrow if we pass this budget, and they do not even know about it.

Somebody asked me one time if I would agree to a supermajority to raise taxes. I said, no, there is plenty of pressure in this system not to raise taxes. But I will vote for a supermajority to borrow money, because the people we are spending their money are not here to tell us, please do not do that to me, I am 2 years old.

But what my colleagues are doing is going to not only make sure that our citizens are overtaxed, because they do not have the willpower to say no to either a tax cut that is irresponsible or to a spending program that is irresponsible. My colleagues do not have the willpower to say no to that, so they want to put it on me. That is basically what has been going on around here, and it is very simply wrong.

So as the gentleman from Texas (Mr. TURNER) said, this debt limit is really one of the last lines of defense we have to insist that the people who run the House here, the majority party, bring a budget to the floor. We cannot bring anything to the floor. We can ask for it, as we did tonight in the Committee on Rules, a substitute that puts at least in place some safeguards, but we cannot bring anything to the floor here because we are in the minority. And that is all right as long as we are treated fairly and we get a vote on what we have asked for and then people know.

But it is not easy to stand here as someone who asks for votes every 2 years and say, as much as I would like to, we just simply cannot afford that program in west Tennessee or middle Tennessee or east Tennessee or wherever; or we cannot afford to do some of the taxing initiatives in terms of tax cuts that we have been doing. We do not have the money. So I would hope that as we go into the budget debate tomorrow, we would keep in mind that we are not just talking about ourselves, but we are talking about our country.

I have been to countries that do not have a government. I have been to a country that is broke. And I have yet to find a country on the face of the earth that is strong and free and broke. And that is where we are headed when we are paying a billion dollars a day in interest. And that is going up every day because we simply, in the here and now, say let us give the people back their money, they earned it, it belongs to them. And it does, except kids are people, too, and we have not done them right. And anybody who says we have, I would have to take violent disagreement with that.

We are going to be overtaxed the rest of our lives, and we should be, because we are paying 13 percent interest before we ever get to tanks, before we ever get to any of the projects that we need in the country to give private enterprise the opportunity, with the infrastructure that only government can provide, the ability to grow and create

private sector jobs, which is, after all, the backbone of the country. We understand that. But we are going to be overtaxed the rest of our lives because people back in the 1970s and 1980s spent more money than they were willing to pay for, and now we are being asked to do the same thing.

We are going to make sure, if we keep on this course, that not only are we overtaxed the rest of our lives, but our children are going to be overtaxed all of their working lives because we simply cannot find within ourselves the ability to make tough, hard decisions that are not politically expedient.

So, Madam Speaker, I appreciate my colleague, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MOORE), for having this special order tonight and inviting us to participate.

Mr. MOORE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Tennessee, and next I am going to yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF).

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Kansas for yielding to me and also thank him for the extraordinary and bipartisan work he has done to try to bring America's budget into balance.

America needs a wartime budget. We need a budget that will provide the resources necessary to win the war on terrorism, that will stimulate our economy without aggravating our deficits, and that will protect and reform Social Security and Medicare but not finance the war out of its trust funds. In sum, our country needs a budget that will call on the American people to make sacrifices to win, sacrifices they are willing to make if only their leaders will have the courage to ask and speak plainly.

The President's budget is not there yet. The budget we will vote on in the House this week calls for the most significant increase in military spending in more than two decades, and that increase will enjoy bipartisan support. The budget also proposes significant new tax cuts, and the House leadership has also signaled its interest in making last year's tax cuts permanent. Domestic spending increases only slightly or remains flat. And the budget requires sacrifice.

There is only one problem: It is not we who are being asked to sacrifice. It is our children.

Advocates of the budget call it balanced. Regrettably, it is anything but balanced. The \$2.1 trillion budget uses \$200 billion in Social Security trust funds to pay for other programs, spends all of the Medicare surplus on priorities other than paying down the national debt, fails to count the cost of the \$43 billion economic stimulus package just signed by the President, assumes that spending levels on domestic priorities will be reduced, including the President's own education initiative, and that mammoth problems, like the growth of the alternative minimum tax, will go unaddressed.

But even these glaring omissions are not enough to balance the budget. The gimmickry goes further.

The budget addresses only the next 5 years, not 10, to hide big late-year costs. And the budget relies on the White House's own budget numbers rather than the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office estimates, which are more conservative. Although institutional memories are sometimes short, I am sure none will forget that only 6 years ago the House Republicans shut down the government twice when President Clinton failed to use CBO estimates to balance the budget.

It is no wonder that Secretary of the Treasury O'Neill will soon be before Congress asking us to raise the debt limit so that the United States of America can borrow another \$750 billion on top of the \$5.9 trillion we already owe to continue paying its bills. Only last year, the Secretary predicted that an increase in the debt limit would not be necessary for 7 years, and the President and Congress vowed we would never dip into Social Security.

It is true that the war on terrorism and long-deferred improvements to our military readiness have required the largest increase in the defense budget in two decades. But this increase of \$45 billion in military costs and almost \$20 billion in homeland security are but a fraction of the multi-trillion dollar change in the Nation's economic projections over the next 10 years. The tax cut recession played a much more significant role in expending the anticipated surplus, with the recession having the largest impact in the short term and the tax cuts playing a more prominent role in the long term.

But whatever the causes of our current economic shortfall, the fact remains that the administration has yet to come up with a budget and an intermediate or even long-term plan to restore balance to our budget and stop deficit spending.

When we had a \$5.6 trillion surplus and no war, we could afford a substantial tax cut, and I supported the President. But now we are at war, we have no surplus, and we are spending the Social Security trust fund. To propose dramatic new tax cuts at a time like this, or to make permanent those we enacted before, before it is clear whether we can afford them, means financing the war out of our parents' retirement and out of our children's education; and this just is not right.

While it may be necessary to deficit spend in the short term, while we are at war and not yet fully recovered from the recession, Congress should work with the administration to develop a balanced budget for America's future that does not rely on raiding Social Security. Everything must be on the table. Secretary O'Neill's request for a mammoth increase in our national debt should be rejected in favor of a small, short-term increase and a plan to return our country to balanced budgets.

America has always been willing to sacrifice to win its wars. She still is. But she must be asked by leaders who are willing to speak candidly about what is at stake and what it will take to win. She must be asked by those with faith in the essential generosity of the American people and who will not tell us that we can have our cake and eat it too. Our prosperity and that of our children may depend on it.

Mr. MOORE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California. I also want to thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. TURNER), the gentleman from Texas (Mr. STENHOLM), the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. PHELPS), and the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. TANNER) for their remarks this evening.

I think we have heard for just about the last hour, Madam Speaker, some really good advice about what we need to be looking at in the future and what we need to do as a country. We can always choose the easy path; or we can try to do what is right by our children, by our grandchildren, and for our country. Doing what is right may sometimes be harder, but it has its own rewards.

I think we need to look at fiscal responsibility and a plan back to fiscal discipline for the future of our great country.

THE BUDGET; AND THE LAYOUT OF THE EASTERN UNITED STATES VERSUS THE WESTERN UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. MCINNIS) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. MCINNIS. Madam Speaker, before I start on my night-side chat, so to speak, to cover some issues that are very important in regards to the layout of the United States, the eastern United States and the western United States, and how the lands are situated, I do want to bring up a couple of points that were discussed by some of the previous speakers.

Specifically, I would like to bring my colleagues' attention to the remarks made by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. TURNER). The gentleman from the State of Texas says that Americans, speaking of the war in Afghanistan, and I am quoting him fairly accurately I think, he says that Americans are taking a pass on this. I am not sure that that is what the gentleman intended. In fact, many of the remarks I heard previously are remarks I agree with. But nobody is taking a pass on what happened on September 11 in this country, the least of which would be the American people.

Because of the fact that we have to go into debt to finance this war effort does not mean the American people are taking a pass on it. Our situation on September 10 was a whole lot different than our situation on September 11. We

did not anticipate on September 10 having to spend the kind of money that we realized on September 11 and days that followed were necessary. No American is taking a pass on this. Every American is contributing to this. We have a lot of Americans that are working in this country, and their tax dollars are going into this.

So I do not think the gentleman really intended his remarks to be quite as stinging as at least I took them.

□ 2200

Madam Speaker, let me mention a couple of other things that I think were brought out in the gentleman's remarks. Not speaking specifically to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. TURNER), but some of the people that share his ideas, they speak courageously about the fact that we need to have a balanced budget and vote no, but there are some who speak very bravely on one hand, but when it comes on votes which impact your State, you vote the other direction; you vote to continually increase the budget.

You talk about how fiscally conservative you are and how we need to keep the budget in balance and how the other party is trying to spend our children's future into oblivion, and I do not know how many times I hear the term Social Security. Show me one Congressman who wants to eliminate Social Security. Well, the war in Afghanistan, the spending on the war in Afghanistan, we threaten Social Security. If we do not win that war, everything is threatened.

Madam Speaker, I would be very interested in seeing where some of my colleagues that have just spoken, for example, where their votes were on the farm bill. The farm bill has a great impact on the State of Texas. That farm bill has gone up dramatically. That is a tough vote to take. That is one of the votes that they speak of. Maybe it is not the popular thing to do, but it is the right thing to do. The right thing to do. Let us check a specific legislator or Congressman who speaks about how we are going into debt and how the budget continues to increase; and if they are from a farm State, let us see how they vote on the farm bill or the highway bill, the bill that benefits their State with specific projects.

On one hand they say that they voted for new highways, and then they go to the conservative sections of their State and say I want a balanced budget. We cannot have our cake and eat it too; but at the microphone there is an obligation to say that Americans are not getting a pass. We are all contributing. It has to be a bipartisan debate.

I should say, and I notice one of my colleagues from the State of Texas is standing here, the gentleman's comments were pretty much in line. I do not disagree with what the gentleman from Texas said. I think it is very important that we have a balanced budget and we need to keep a handle on the debt. The management of that debt was

a whole lot different on September 10 than it was on September 11, or 2 years ago when our economy was booming than it is today when our revenues have decreased.

The management of the debt was so important 3 years ago, but now take a look at what that debt is today and take a look at the small businesses that are going out of business today. They need some tax relief. This is not the time to increase taxes on small businesses.

Mr. STENHOLM. Madam Speaker, will the gentleman from Colorado yield?

Mr. MCINNIS. Madam Speaker, I would be happy to yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. STENHOLM. Madam Speaker, concerning what the gentleman from Texas (Mr. TURNER) was saying a moment ago, was also characterized in my own comments, is in agreement with the gentleman's statements concerning September 11, 2001. That is the point that we are making tonight and we have been trying to make, is that things did change. Therefore, we do not necessarily believe that the budget that was put in place last year before 9-11 should be arbitrarily sent forward without adjusting not only for the expenditures, but also for the fact that we are going borrowing the Social Security trust funds in order to meet current operating expenses.

We would welcome the opportunity to work together with the other side in the same spirit that the gentleman began his remarks tonight. Things have changed; and, therefore, we believe that we need to change our economic game plan to bring us back into balance, and we look forward to working with the gentleman.

Mr. MCINNIS. Madam Speaker, reclaiming my time, I do not disagree with the gentleman. My sensitivity arose when I heard one of my colleagues talk about how Americans are taking a pass on the war in Afghanistan. We have disputes here regarding our budget, and we have disputes on which programs ought to be funded and which ought not to be funded; but I can tell my colleagues, there are some who stand up on one hand and say we need a balanced budget. On the other hand, when a huge bill like a farm bill or highway bill comes which has an impact on your district, you vote for those projects. That is where you get into problems here. I am just saying if you are going to preach the good word, you ought to follow the good word. That is all I am saying.

Let me move on to the issue that I came here primarily to address this evening. I find myself continually taking the microphone on the House floor to try and talk and have a conversation about those of us who live in the West, our issues in the West compared with those issues that you deal with in the East. Instead of taking on a whole gamut of issues, I have tried to narrow it down to two specific issues I want to