

more public and section 8-type housing. For the upwardly mobile poor, there are homeownership programs being sponsored by foundations and the private sector which could be made more effective with Federal assistance.

Small businesses in urban settings have never received the quantity and quality of support provided over the years for agribusinesses. We give far more to agribusinesses. Our farm subsidies are out of kilter. We are still giving enormous amounts of money to less than 2 percent of the population.

□ 2000

Farm subsidies represent one of the greatest swindles in the American budget. The taxpayers should take a look. They should get angry about the fact that we are funding these farm subsidies and they are not going to poor people. The agribusinesses, the corporations have bought up the quotas. They have accumulated the right to those subsidies, and we are really subsidizing large agribusinesses with the farm subsidy. The revenue generated by these large entities could generate greater funding if we dealt with that problem.

International relations means that we have to again, as I said before, focus on what do we do about the war in Iraq. How do we get out of Iraq. Many proposals are being made by many different candidates. The sensible proposals that must prevail are proposals which allow us to leave with order and honor but, on the other hand, leave immediately and trust the rest of the international community to help us accomplish the purposes that we can accomplish productively in Iraq.

At the core of our decision-making this year is the war in Iraq. The war in Iraq will make us behave like barbarians, or we can behave like the extraordinary creators of a new kind of civilization. The constitutional civilization created by America is one that guides us and will guide us out of these absurd and ridiculous atrocities that are being committed in economics and will be committed militarily if we do not get out of the war in Iraq.

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS/CONGRESSIONAL PROGRESSIVE CAUCUS—BASIC ASSUMPTIONS AND PRINCIPLES FOR AN ALTERNATIVE BUDGET

GENERAL PRIORITIES

1. A smaller, streamlined and efficient government should be the goal of all lawmakers; however, there must be enough revenue and resources to carry out the vital functions of our complex American society. It is absolutely necessary that we maintain an adequate investment in human development.

2. Federal assistance for education, health care, housing, child care, transportation, worker safety and protection, and business development is as vital as support for homeland security and defense.

3. The imperative of the government to provide for the nation's security can be effectively implemented and sustained only if all of the vital investments in human development are assigned priority on a continuing basis.

TAX POLICY

4. While the taxing of middle income and working families must be reduced and main-

tained at the lowest possible levels, the Federal government must nevertheless secure the revenue it needs by upwardly adjusting the tax rates on corporate entities and by creatively seeking larger fees from publicly owned resources such as the spectrum, the internet, public lands and waterways, etc.

5. There should be an end to the tax system as we know it and a revamping which reduces the portion of the tax burden borne by individuals and families to less than fifty percent of the overall tax burden. Corporate entities utilizing the collective and accumulated knowledge and institutional support of the total society will continue to grow and prosper. Such recipients of publicly sponsored research and development; protected by the legal system and military might of the nation and enriched by the great American consumer market; such entities can and should bear a greater portion of the national tax burden.

6. Tax cuts for the upper income brackets should be repealed immediately. Tax cuts for all families earning less than fifty thousand dollars per year should be implemented immediately commencing with a large reduction for payroll taxes for the poorest workers.

EDUCATION AND JOB TRAINING

7. Since the nation's security as well as its future economic stability and prosperity is directly dependent upon the quality of education of its citizens, the budget should greatly increase Federal assistance for education from HeadStart to Title I, bi-lingual education, Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic Serving Higher Education Institutions, special education and educational technology. Since school buildings are essential for the implementation of all school improvements, the taboo must be ended and Federal grants for school construction must be provided. The President's budget is proposing construction grants (not loans) only for charter schools.

8. Significant Federal initiatives for education reform such as No Child Left Behind cannot be implemented effectively while Local Education Agencies are under assault from state and local budget cuts; therefore, an emergency targeted revenue sharing for education programs must be legislated. The Federal government must move beyond its present funding posture which contributes less than seven cents of each dollar spent for education while mandating compliance with far reaching reform programs.

9. Job Training programs must be rescued from the downward spiral of budget cuts. It must be made complementary and compatible with our overall education efforts as well as the changing occupational needs generated by new challenges in homeland security and global competition for expertise. The role of the Federal government in job training for youth must be restored and funding levels increased. A more detailed analysis of the staffing needs of the Homeland Security initiative must be coordinated with the Department of Labor.

Technicians to clean up anthrax, other biological warfare germs; to respond to chemical or dirty bomb attacks; to translate terrorists communications; etc. must be trained. Even familiar first responders such as nurses, police and firefighters are in short supply when a requirement that they live within one hour's traveling time to their assigned post is mandated. Big city inner city residents must be trained to be their own first responders. Funding for this purpose must be made available immediately.

HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND SAFETY NETS

10. While the recently released Democratic Caucus Prescription Drug Plan with a twenty-five dollar premium should be endorsed,

other health care inadequacies must be addressed in the current budget. Of greatest significance to the CBC are the President's proposals to have the Federal government abandon Medicaid and leave it to the states. This bribing of the states by allowing them to keep whatever they save as a result of reduced health care for the poor must be blocked beginning with the budget process. The swindle that started with welfare reform dollars must not be allowed to expand.

11. Welfare Reform must be revisited and made more humane by providing more in cash payments for children. The survivor benefits rate used by Social Security for payments to children under eighteen should be used as a guide for calculating aid to dependent children. Funds must also be provided to allow any welfare parent who qualifies to attend college for two years with a job specific goal such as nursing or medical technician, etc.

12. A coordination and calibration of the services provided to families under Title Twenty with the goals of assisting low-income youth under No Child Left Behind must be appropriately funded.

HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

13. There is an acute housing crisis in the inner city communities which can only be met in a timely manner by providing more public and section 8 type housing. For the upwardly mobile poor there are homeownership programs being sponsored by foundations and the private sector which could be made more effective with Federal assistance.

14. Small businesses in urban settings have never received the quantity and quality of support provided over the years for agribusinesses. Small businesses and related economically significant institutions such as hospitals and public service agencies deserve greater loan and grant options. The revenue generated by these entities would offset the increased funding.

TRANSPORTATION

15. Mass transit subsidies are provided primarily to assist working families and the poor. More federal funding is needed in order to avoid increased costs faced by workers already hard pressed to make ends meet. Congress must insist that transit systems receiving Federal aid must provide open disclosure for their accounting and contracting procedures as well as their salary and consultant fee rates.

AGRICULTURE

16. Billions of dollars continue to be appropriated for agribusinesses and farmers. There is no need for an increase in the overall budget; however, specific earmarking of funds for the poorest farmers; for Black farmers, for loans to groups that have been discriminated against by the farm loan programs; these are all items which must be addressed in the budget.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

17. Foreign Aid dollars are still basically dollars distributed with a double standard with Caribbean nations and Africa being greatly short-changed. The CBC will continue to assign high priority to an increase in funding for these neglected areas and people.

GENERAL

18. Funding for Commissions to study issues such as Reparations; Disenfranchisement of Federal Ex-Offenders; Disparities in Sentencing; Disparities in Health Care; etc. are vitally needed.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Ms. SLAUGHTER (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of inclement weather.

Mr. MCINTYRE (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for January 27 and the balance of the week on account of weather-related difficulties.

Mr. EVERETT (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today on account of having influenza.

Mr. GERLACH (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today 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. HOYER) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

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

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. NORTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SKELTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. FILNER, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MCDERMOTT, for 5 minutes, today.

SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 1741. An act to provide a site for the National Women's History Museum in the District of Columbia; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 3 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Friday, January 30, 2004, at noon.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

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

6427. A letter from the Administrator, Agriculture Marketing Service, Poultry Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Increase in Fees and Charges for Egg, Poultry, and Rabbit Grading [Docket No. PY-03-001] received December 17, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

6428. A letter from the Administrator, Agriculture Marketing Service, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Oranges and Grapefruit Grown in Lower Rio Grande Valley in Texas; Increased Assessment Rate [Docket No. FV-906-1 IFR] received December 17, 2003, pursuant to 5

U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

6429. A letter from the Administrator, Agriculture Marketing Service, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Walnuts Grown in California; Decreased Assessment Rate [Docket No. FV04-984-IIFR] received December 17, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

6430. A letter from the Administrator, Agriculture Marketing Service, Transportation and Marketing Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — National Organic Program; Amendments to the National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances [Docket Number TM-03-02] (RIN: 0581-AC27) received December 17, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

6431. A letter from the Administrator, Agriculture Marketing Service, Fruit and Vegetable Division, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Revision of Fees for the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Terminal Market Inspection Services [Docket Number FV-03-301] (RIN: 0581-AB63) received January 5, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

6432. A letter from the Administrator, Agriculture Marketing Service, Livestock and Seed Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment to the Soybean Promotion and Research Rules and Regulations [Doc. No. LS-02-14] received January 5, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

6433. A letter from the Regulatory Contact, Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Fees for Processed Commodity Analytical Services (RIN: 0580-AA84) received January 8, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

6434. A letter from the Acting Staff Director, Office of Regulatory and Management Services, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Sale and Disposal of National Forest System Timber; Extension of Timber Sale Contracts To Facilitate Urgent Timber Removal From Other Lands (RIN: 0596-AB48) received January 8, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

6435. A letter from the Acting Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; Electronic Submission and Processing of Payment Requests [DFARS Case 2002-D001] received December 17, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

6436. A letter from the Acting Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; Payment Withholding [DFARS Case 2002-D017] received December 17, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

6437. A letter from the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; Unique Item Identification and Valuation [DFARS Case 2003-D081] received January 8, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

6438. A letter from the Assistant to the Board, Board of Governors of the Federal Re-

serve System, transmitting the Board's final rule — Bank Holding Companies and Change in Bank Control [Regulation Y; Docket No. R-1092] received December 17, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

6439. A letter from the Acting General Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Suspension of Community Eligibility [Docket No. FEMA-7821] received December 11, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

6440. A letter from the Acting General Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Changes in Flood Elevation Determinations [Docket No. FEMA-D-7547] received December 11, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

6441. A letter from the Acting General Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Final Flood Elevation Determinations — received December 11, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

6442. A letter from the Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's final rule — Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension (Nonprocurement) and Governmentwide Requirements for Drug-Free Workplace (Grants) (RIN: 2501-AC81) received December 17, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

6443. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's final rule — Modification of the Community Development Block Grant Definition for Metropolitan City and Other Conforming Amendments [Docket No. FR-4872-1-01] (RIN: 2506-AC15) received December 19, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

6444. A letter from the Deputy Secretary, Securities & Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Recordkeeping Requirements for Registered Transfer Agents [Release No. 34-48949; File No. S7-13-03] (RIN: 3235-AI87) received December 22, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

6445. A letter from the Deputy Secretary, Securities & Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Compliance Programs of Investment Companies and Investment Advisers [Release Nos. IA-2204; IC-26299; File No. S7-03-03] (RIN: 3235-AI77) received January 8, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

6446. A letter from the Director, Office of Workers' Compensation Programs, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's final rule — Regulations Implementing the Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act of 1969, as Amended (RIN: 1215-AB40) received December 17, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

6447. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Law, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule — Energy Conservation Program for Consumer Products; Test Procedure for Clothes Washers [Docket No. EE-RM/TP-03-100] (RIN: 1904-AB43) received December 10, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6448. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Department of Health and Human