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No. 11

## House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. RENZI).

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,

February 3, 2004.

I hereby appoint the Honorable RICK RENZI to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,

*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Monahan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1879. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to revise and extend provisions relating to mammography quality standards.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 128, Public Law 108-132, the Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, appoints the following individual to the Commission on Review of Overseas Military Facility Structure of the United States—

Major General Lewis E. Curtis III  
USAF (Retired).

### MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 20, 2004, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 30 minutes, and each Member, except the majority leader, the minority leader, or the minority whip, limited to not to exceed 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. KELLER) for 5 minutes.

### SALUTE TO JOSE MELENDEZ-PEREZ

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute one of my constituents, a man whose diligence in his job as a border agent may well have saved the lives of each and every one of us here in Congress.

Jose Melendez-Perez works at Orlando International Airport, the same airport that I fly in and out of every week, and in August of 2001, he stopped a man named al-Qahtani from entering the United States. As Mr. Melendez-Perez just told the 9/11 panel, al-Qahtani's story about why he was coming to America from Saudi Arabia just had too many holes in it.

In spite of bone-chilling stares and intimidating finger pointing, Mr. Melendez-Perez refused to back down. The FBI and the CIA now believe that al-Qahtani was supposed to be the 20th hijacker during the attacks of 9/11. He should have been on that plane headed towards Washington that crashed in a Pennsylvania field. But thanks to Jose Melendez-Perez of Orlando, he was not.

Every time he has been asked about his role in stopping the 20th hijacker, Mr. Melendez-Perez always says, "I was just doing my job." Well, Mr. Melendez-Perez, I say to you, "Job well done."

### THE GREAT PRETENDER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 20, 2004, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, when President Bush took office, he inherited the longest peacetime expansion of the American economy in history. He

inherited 4 consecutive years of budget surpluses, the first time that had happened in over 80 years. And he inherited a projected 10-year budget surplus of \$5.6 trillion.

In March of 2001, President Bush boldly promised the American people, and I quote, "We can proceed with tax relief without fear of budget deficits, even if the economy softens. Projections for the surplus in my budget are cautious and conservative." That is what the President said.

Well, Mr. Speaker, it should now be clear to the American people that the originator of the term "fuzzy math" has become its foremost practitioner. Any doubt about that was erased yesterday with the submission of the President's fiscal 2005 budget, a budget that threatens to plunge us into an economic abyss for years to come.

The President's failed economic policies, adopted by this House and Senate, are the equivalent of fiscal child abuse because they would force our children to pay our bills for decades to come and force our grandchildren to pay our bills for decades to come. His budget projects a record deficit this year. Fiscal conservatives hear me: \$521 billion in deficits this year, \$5 trillion, this on the heels of last year's deficits of \$375 billion. And next year the administration projects a deficit of \$364 billion.

But even that figure is not accurate, and the President ought to know it and, in my opinion, does know it. It fails to include the cost of additional military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. The Director of the Office of Management and Budget revealed yesterday that the administration may ask for another \$50 billion for our war efforts. It failed to provide a long-term solution for the working class time bomb, the alternative minimum tax, and it failed to include the cost of initiatives such as the administration's ill-conceived Social Security privatization plan.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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The fact is the President has no plan to dig our Nation out of the fiscal mess that his policies and the policies of this Congress have created. He pretends that he will halve the deficit by 2009, but almost all the deficit reduction in his budget is attributable to growth in the Social Security Trust Fund. I ask my Republican colleagues: Where have you hidden the Social Security lockbox?

Furthermore, the President pretends that reining in nondefense discretionary spending will return the budget to balance. The No Child Left Behind Act is still underfunded by \$9 billion plus. The President would slash funding for the environment and from construction on our Nation's highways. His budget even cuts funding for veterans medical care and the Assistance to Firefighters Grant program.

My good friend, the chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG), has recognized the fallacy of trying to balance the budget by cutting discretionary spending. Yesterday, Chairman YOUNG said, and I quote, "No one should expect significant deficit reduction as a result of austere nondefense discretionary spending limits. The numbers simply do not add up. Non-defense discretionary represents less than 20 percent, some 18 percent of the Federal budget, and freezing this spending reduces the deficit by a marginal amount."

In fact, if we reduced and eliminated all of discretionary funding, all funding for this Congress, all funding for the executive department, all funding for NIH, all funding for CDC, all funding for CIA, all funding for FBI, and all funding for all other nondefense discretionary spending, we would not balance the budget.

But never fear, while the President proposes draconian and unrealistic spending cuts, he continues to demand that the tax cuts of 2001 and 2003 be made permanent at a cost of \$1 trillion over 10 years. Who is going to pay that? Our children and our grandchildren. Because this generation refuses to pay for what it is buying.

And here is the kicker: The President refuses to offer any explanation of how he plans to pay for them. None. Zero. Nada. Even some of our Republican friends are starting to flinch at this administration's fiscal recklessness. Hopefully, they will vote that way as well, it will not be just rhetorical. And some of them, by the way, do vote that way, and I respect them for that.

On Friday, and the majority leader is sitting here on the floor pretending to ignore my compelling remarks, on Friday, former majority leader Dick Armey was quoted in the Wall Street Journal as stating, and this is Dick Armey, the majority leader immediately preceding our present majority leader, and he said, "I'm sitting here and I'm upset about the deficit and I'm upset about spending. There's no way I can pin that on the Democrats. Repub-

licans own the town now." That was Dick Armey, former Republican majority leader.

I implore every one of my colleagues to reject the President's budget out of hand and to face the fiscal train wreck bearing down on the American people with honesty and candor. Some do. Most do not. When it comes to masquerading as a fiscal conservative, the President deserves an academy award.

We do not have the luxury of pretending, my colleagues, any longer that his failed policies are working. Let us hope that all of us have the intellectual honesty and the courage to face this issue and come together. It will be tough. It will be wrenching in many respects. But it will be the right thing to do for our country. It will be the right thing to do for our children. It will be the right thing to do for America.

#### THE BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 20, 2004, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY) is recognized during morning hour debates.

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, we are heading into the legislative year and we are heading into a campaign year, as we just heard. Campaign rhetoric sometimes overshadows reality and truth. But the Republican majority will be guided by three principal themes this year: Ensuring our security, growing the economy, and defending the family. Everything we do this year in this House will get our Nation closer to one of those goals.

First, we will continue to fund the ongoing war on terror and provide our military service men and women with the tools, training, and resources that they need to protect all of us. We will continue to export democracy and freedom to every corner of the globe.

Second, we will continue our successful work here at home in growing the economy, creating jobs for the American people, and bringing fiscal responsibility to the government. We will make sure that the \$1,000 child tax credit remains the law of the land, something the Democrats opposed. We will not let the marriage tax penalty come back, as it is scheduled to do at the end of this year, something the Democrats want to see the return of. We will fight to keep the 10 percent tax bracket where it is, so that working families can continue to enjoy more fruits of their labors, something that the Democrats do not want to see happen.

Members, it boggles my mind to notice that the Democrats have all of a sudden become deficit hawks. It is amazing to me. In the 40 years that the Democrats controlled this House, they never balanced the budget once. Not once. Deficits did not matter. Tax increases mattered. More spending mattered. They fought every tax relief

bill every President brought before them. They wanted to spend more money. Not once did they balance the budget.

It took less than 4 years for a Republican majority in this House to get to a balanced budget, because we brought fiscal sanity to this House and to this government. So when they talk about the President's budget, what they are screaming about is they want more spending, and the President says no. What they are screaming about is they want to raise taxes, and the President says no. That is what they are screaming about.

And what would happen if they raised taxes on American families? They would kill the growth that has come because we gave tax relief. And if we kill the growth, revenues to the government go down. Then they will want to raise taxes some more; take more money to pay. We just heard the minority whip talk about paying this generation's debt. What he is talking about is raising taxes so that they can spend more. Republicans are interested in growing the economy, the Democrats are interested in growing the government.

Third, this House will protect American families as they struggle to do their all-important work raising their children, caring for their elders, and building their communities. We will pass the Laci and Conner law to protect unborn victims of violence.

We will work with the Senate to finish the reauthorization of the welfare system, to help families get off welfare and into stable and well-paying jobs.

We will make quality and affordable health care more accessible to all Americans regardless of their income level.

And, finally, we will protect the Medicare legislation passed last year from attempts to undermine the promise of guaranteed prescription drug coverage the Congress has made to our seniors.

□ 1245

Mr. Speaker, as Members know, we are heading into this campaign year with a close election facing us in November. But as contentious as our debates probably will be, although we may have different agendas, our goals of peace and prosperity for the Nation are the same; and further remember that this America is best served when our differences bring out the best in ourselves, not the worst in each other.

#### MEDICARE BILL LEAVES AMERICA'S ELDERLY OUT IN THE COLD

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RENZI). Pursuant to the order of the House of January 20, 2004, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, yesterday felt like Groundhog Day.