

their books. Worse, the Federal Government can't account for \$24.5 billion spent in 2003. Government auditors should be doing a better job of tracking taxpayer dollars. Blue Dogs propose a budget freeze for any federal agency that can't properly balance its books.

5. Make Congress tell taxpayers how much they're spending.—Many spending bills slide through Congress on a voice vote with no debate and many members vote on bills without knowing their cost. Blue Dogs propose that any bills calling for more than \$50 million in new spending must be put to a rollcall vote.

6. Set aside a rainy-day fund.—Under current law, almost any spending can be designated an "emergency," and so-called "emergency spending" has turned into a giant loophole for non-emergency spending. Blue Dogs propose closing this loophole by defining emergency and requiring Congress to have a separate vote on items that are designated "emergency" spending. Blue Dogs also propose creating a rainy-day fund—something that 45 states currently do.

7. Don't hide votes to raise the debt limit.—Current House rules allow for automatic increases in the debt limit if Congress passes a budget resolution that increases the public debt. Since its establishment in 1980, this rule has been used to shield as many as 12 separate increases in the debt limit from a vote. Blue Dogs believe that increases in the public debt limit shouldn't be hidden from public view. Blue Dogs propose to change the current rules so that every increase in the public debt limit must be subject to a rollcall vote.

8. Justify spending for pet projects.—Every year, Congress spends billions on wasteful pork-barrel projects, such as \$50 million for an indoor rainforest in Iowa and funding for the Paper Industry International Hall of Fame.

Since 1991, Congress has spent \$185 billion on pet projects for members of Congress, and in fiscal 2004 alone, pork-barrel spending totaled \$22.9 billion.

While many of these projects may be worthy of taxpayer support, many are not. Blue Dogs propose that members of Congress must provide written justification, available to the public, of any earmarked spending for pet projects.

9. Ensure that Congress reads the bills it's voting on.—Over the past few years, some of the largest spending bills in American history have been voted on after only a few hours of consideration. For example, the Medicare prescription drug bill, now estimated to cost \$720 billion over the next ten years, went to a vote barely a day after the final version of the 500 + page bill was made available to members of Congress. Blue Dogs propose that members of Congress should be given a minimum of three-days to have the final text of legislation made available to them before there is a vote.

10. Require honest cost estimates for every bill that Congress votes on.—Both taxpayers and members of Congress should be aware of the price tag for any legislation passed by Congress, and there are no current requirements that bills be accompanied by an honest and objective estimate of their fiscal impact. Blue Dogs propose that every conference report and bill that comes to the floor of the House be accompanied by a cost estimate prepared by the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO).

11. Make sure new bills fit the budget.—The Budget Committee can play an impor-

tant role in making sure that new legislation passed by Congress lives within the rules agreed upon by Congress in the annual budget resolution.

Blue Dogs propose that the Budget Committee strengthen its oversight role by preparing budget compliance statements for every bill that is reported out of committee for consideration by the full Congress.

12. Make Congress do a better job of keeping tabs on government programs.—Blue Dogs believe that one way to restrain growth in federal spending is to ensure that taxpayer dollars are spent wisely. Blue Dogs also believe that Congress can do a better job of carrying out its oversight responsibilities. Blue Dogs propose that each committee be required to submit reports at least twice a year, available to the public, that provide an update on how each committee is fulfilling its oversight duties.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

EVEN START

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. CUNNINGHAM) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I am a strong supporter of our President and I feel that he has done a good job in this Nation. Actually the world owes him and the First Lady a lot of support and our gratitude.

Sometimes the bean counters in the White House though take a look at a program and do not look at its effectiveness and they eliminate it. Many times they have to look at a program and eliminate it if it is duplicative or wasteful or ineffective.

But during the last budget process there was a program on the list that was not only effective but enhanced Leave No Child Behind and education, and the title of that was Even Start.

Ask any teacher, administrator or parent that if a parent is involved in the program called Even Start and my friend, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) and I have a friend named Peter Yarrow involved in that. I know I can count on my colleague to support this because we did last year.

This program brings parents and it brings students together to work together. Any time you can involve parents in education the outcome is much, much better.

Chairman Bill Goodling, the former Member who was then the chairman of the Committee on Education and the Workforce, ramrodded Even Start. He kept it alive when it was almost fatal.

This House last Congress recognized the significance of the successful pro-

gram and came together, both Republicans and Democrats, and reinstated the Even Start program. The gains in low income children, their parents are well-documented in improving literacy levels and assisting parents in completing their GEDs. Quite often low income parents in our districts and the gentleman from California's (Mr. FILLNER) and the gentleman from Wisconsin's (Mr. OBEY) do not even speak English, and these parents actually come together with their children and work these programs, and we want to have it reinstated. I have faith that we are.

The fact that the chairman of the Committee on Education and the Workforce, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BOEHNER) is supportive, and the gentleman from California (Mr. MCKEON), chairman of the subcommittee, are supportive, and we have commitment I believe in the Senate to do the same thing.

□ 1915

My wife asked me to go listen to a man one year who is a good friend of the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) as well. She said, I want you to go here Peter Yarrow. I said, who is Peter Yarrow? She said, Peter, Paul and Mary, Peter Yarrow. I said, that anti-war, left-wing guy, I am not going to go listen to him, and she said, Well, honey, I support you and your events, go to this thing with me. I did, and I think the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) will admit and agree that he is one of the most caring people that we have ever met, especially when it comes to children and children's programs.

Peter Yarrow has a song called "Don't Laugh At Me," and he is involved also in the Even Start program, and I would submit the rest of this for the RECORD, but Peter's issue is that things like Columbine, if we would have encouraged these children to get together and not laugh at each other, then maybe we would not have had a Columbine.

I would like to read just a few stanzas of the song that he sings. He was so effective, I invited this guy that I do not agree with in many politics, but we brought him before the Republican Conference, and he wowed the people and got support for the Even Start program.

I'm a little boy with glasses, the one they call a geek. A little girl who never smiles, 'cause I have braces on my teeth. And I know how it feels to cry myself to sleep.

I'm that kid on every playground who's always chosen last. A single teenage mother, tryin' to overcome my past. You don't have to be my friend, but is it too much to ask.

Don't laugh at me. Don't call me names. Don't get your pleasure from my pain. In God's eyes, we're all the same. Someday we'll all have perfect wings. Don't laugh at me.

. . . I'm fat, I'm thin, I'm short, I'm tall, I'm deaf, I'm blind, in a way, we are all. I'm black, I'm white, and I am brown. I'm Jewish, I'm Christian, and I am Muslim. I was born in Sarajevo. I was born in Kosovo. I was born in Northern Ireland. I was born in Africa. I'm of the Hutu tribe. I'm of the Tutsi tribe . . . I'm American Indian. I was born in Iraq, in Afghanistan, in Canada, in Mexico. I was born in Vietnam, in Sudan. I was born in the United States of America.

I'm very, very young. I'm quite aged. I'm Israeli. I'm Palestinian. I'm quite wealthy, and I am very, very poor.

My country 'tis of thee. Oh, sweet land of liberty. It is of thee that I sing."

There are many stanzas to this song and I challenge anyone in this room or on either side of the aisle to listen to Peter Yarrow and what he stands for and not have tears in his eyes.

Mr. Speaker, I ask for the support of Even Start, and we will put it back into the budget regardless of the President's bean counters.

You are very familiar with Peter Yarrow and his work. I'll summarize some Even Start talking points below.

Even Start serves children 0 through 7 years old and their families. The services provided include early childhood education, adult basic education, parenting education and interactive literacy instruction (parents and children reading together).

The San Diego and Poway programs are very successful and have documented significant gains in children's literacy levels as well as an impressive record in assisting parents in completing their GED. The focus is on assisting parents to be their child's first and best teacher. In addition, in San Diego we have been very successful in helping parents transition from Spanish to English thereby enabling them to be involved with their children's education as well as making them more viable in the local economy/job market.

Peter Yarrow has been a great friend to Even Start nationwide—his Don't Laugh at Me program which is a character education program in schools has been incorporated in many Even Start programs nationwide.

Goals of Even Start:

To extend learning, enrich language development and support high levels of success for children birth to age seven and their families.

To break the cycle of limited literacy, underemployment and high mobility of participating families by building literacy skills in both parents and children.

To provide 'simultaneous' services for families, where parents and their children learn together. This builds support for parents to succeed with their educational and employment goals, and develop habits of life-long learning for their children.

To support families committed to education and to economic independence.

DON'T LAUGH AT ME

(Written by Steve Seskin and Allen Shamblin, performed by Peter Yarrow)

I'm a little boy with glasses
The one they call a geek
A little girl who never smiles
'Cause I have braces on my teeth
And I know how it feels to cry
myself to sleep

I'm that kid on every playground
Who's always chosen last
A single teenage mother
Tryin' to overcome my past
You don't have to be my friend
But is it too much to ask

Don't laugh at me
Don't call me names
Don't get your pleasure from my pain
In God's eyes we're all the same
Someday we'll all have perfect wings
Don't laugh at me

I'm the beggar on the corner
You've passed me on the street
And I wouldn't be out here beggin'
If I had enough to eat
And don't think I don't notice
That our eyes never meet

Don't laugh at me
Don't call me names
Don't get you pleasure from my pain
In God's eyes we're all the same
Someday we'll all have perfect wings
Don't laugh at me

I'm fat, I'm thin, I'm short, I'm tall
I'm deaf, I'm blind, hey, aren't we all

Don't laugh at me
Don't call me names
Don't get your pleasure from my pain
In God's eyes we're all the same
Someday we'll all have perfect wings
Don't laugh at me

I'm fat, I'm thin, I'm short, I'm tall
I'm deaf, I'm blind, in a way, we are all.

I'm black, I'm white, and I am brown
I'm Jewish, I'm Christian, and I am Muslim
I was born in Sarajevo, I was born in Kosovo,
I was born in Northern Ireland, I was born in
Africa

I'm of the Hutu tribe, I'm of the Tutsi tribe
I'm American Indian
I was born in Iraq, in Afghanistan, in Canada,
in Mexico,

I was born in Vietnam, in Sudan, I was born
in the United States of America

I'm very, very young, I'm quite aged
I'm Israeli, I'm Palestinian,
I'm quite wealthy, and I am very, very poor.

My country 'tis of thee
Oh, sweet land of liberty
It is of thee . . .
that I sing.

COMMUNICATION FROM RECEIVING AND WAREHOUSING SPECIALIST IN OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KNOLLENBERG) laid before the House the following communication from David Bogan, Receiving and Warehousing Specialist in the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer:

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, March 10, 2005.

HON. DENNIS J. HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to formally notify you, pursuant to rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have been served with a criminal subpoena for testimony, issued by the Superior Court for the District of Columbia.

After consulting with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is consistent with the rights and privileges of the House.

Sincerely,

DAVID BOGAN,
Receiving and Warehousing Specialist.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. DRAKE). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H. CON. RES. 95, CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006

Mr. PUTNAM, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 109-19) on the resolution (H. Res. 154) providing for consideration of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 95) establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2006, revising appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal year 2005, and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2007 through 2010, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to speak out of order.

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

There was no objection.

SMART SECURITY AND \$81 BILLION IRAQ SUPPLEMENTAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, this week Congress is debating the President's request for more than 81 billion additional dollars to finance his misadventure in Iraq.

I will oppose this bill because I support the troops and have deep admiration for their courage. I will vote against the supplemental because I believe our brave soldiers are being used as pawns by their civilian superiors, whose wastefulness and incompetence is betraying their duty to keep us safe.

This supplemental will bring the overall Iraq price tag to more than \$200 billion. What are the American people getting for their \$200 billion? What kind of return on their investment?

We have created a hotbed of terrorism in Iraq. We have earned the wrath of the entire Muslim world. Meanwhile, we have a Swiss cheese homeland security system, and we have lost 1,500 of our troops, not to mention the more than 11,000 wounded and the many who will suffer mental trauma for the rest of their lives.

The Center For American Progress did a study of what \$200 billion could really buy in terms of our security here in the United States of America.