

The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) is an outstanding, outstanding choice. He is one of the hardest working, most thoughtful members of our panel. He has immersed himself in the details of trade and tax law. He is an extraordinary individual who has served this President in a wonderful way as adviser to the White House and one of the closest confidants he has here on Capitol Hill.

I believe it is an extraordinary opportunity, not only for the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) and his family but for the United States trade representation around the globe. I urge my colleagues on the other side of the building to quickly dispatch that name forward to the committee of responsibility and urge the passage and allow the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) to show the great credentials he has displayed in our committee on this floor and ultimately as the next trade ambassador for the country.

SOCIAL SECURITY PRIVATIZATION HARMS AMERICANS

(Ms. SOLIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise because the constituents in the 32nd Congressional District are very concerned about the privatization of Social Security.

There are nearly 60,000 Social Security beneficiaries in my district who are very concerned about the risky privatization scheme that the President is proposing. However, other young workers also are very concerned about the future of their retirement security.

To date my office has held well over 25 senior center visits, high school visits, parent centers visits, and health care facilities visits, and we have spoken to constituents about this proposed privatization plan. We have been asking them to fill out surveys on how they feel about Social Security. We have one in English and one in Spanish.

Overwhelmingly, my constituents are telling me that they are not in agreement with the proposed privatization plan. They would like to see a secure and a structured reform that would truly be available to every single individual that needs and requires Social Security assistance. I would like to tell Members that we have received well over 300 responses through e-mail and direct mail from our constituents who are resoundingly saying that the President should rethink his plan.

COMMENDING HARRY GILMORE

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

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Harry Gilmore, the first American Ambassador to Ar-

menia who is the latest U.S. official to publicly acknowledge the Armenian genocide and call for international recognition.

In an interview with Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, the retired diplomat recently said, "There is no doubt that the Armenian events were genocide."

Gilmore's comments followed those of the current U.S. Ambassador to Armenia, John Evans, who recently evoked the Armenian Genocide during his first stateside visit to Armenian communities across the country. During a series of public exchanges with Armenians late last month, Evans stated, "The Armenian genocide was the first genocide of the twentieth century."

As a proud member of the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues and an ardent supporter of Fresno's Armenian American community, I thank the Ambassadors for their statements and pledge to continue my efforts for a full United States affirmation of the Armenian genocide.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.J. Res. 23

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as a cosponsor of H.J. Res. 23.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CARTER). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Missouri? There was no objection.

SAVE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANTS

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

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my opposition to the administration's budget proposal.

Although the Community Development Block Grant Program is now on its way out if this is approved, I think it is important for the Nation to know that on August 22, 1974, the Community Development Block Grant Act was signed into law by Republican President Gerald Ford, but it is the brain child of President Richard Nixon.

Today, there is a proposal that would allow for a consolidation of 18 other programs in the Department of Commerce, and the new commerce program would then be funded at a level that is 35 percent lower than the combined fiscal year 2005 appropriated level for all 18 programs.

The pro-rata reduction of CDBG alone would be \$1.42 billion. That would devastate a program, Mr. Speaker.

When I was mayor of Kansas City, Missouri, we identified 60,000 homes in need of rehabilitation or repair. We were able to complete 12,000. What will happen to the 48,000 others?

STOP YUCCA MOUNTAIN PROJECT NOW

(Ms. BERKLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, for the last 20 years the Nevada delegation, Republican and Democrat, have fought to keep the Yucca Mountain Project from becoming a reality.

What is the Yucca Mountain Project? 77,000 tons of toxic nuclear waste being transported across 43 States to be buried in a hole in the Nevada desert where we have groundwater issues, seismic activity, and volcanic activity.

The President when he approved this said that his decision was based on sound science. Sound science? There were 294 unresolved scientific and technical issues.

There is no canister that can safely store this radioactive waste, and we have a court decision that says that rather than a 10,000-year standard for radiation there should be a 300,000-year standard for radiation.

Now, as of yesterday, the new Secretary of Energy has come forward and disclosed that the scientific documentation for Yucca Mountain has been falsified. It is about time that the rest of the country knew what the Nevada delegation knows and has been saying for 20 years. This is not based on sound science. It is based on sound politics.

I have urged the Secretary of Energy to appoint an independent body to investigate the science. We know now it has been falsified. It is wrong. This is a bad project and I urge the President to rescind his order to Yucca Mountain and stop this project now.

CORPORATE TAX RATE

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

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, more than 260,000 jobs were created last month making February the 21st straight month in which we have seen steady job gains. Companies are hiring more and more these days. More people are now collecting well-earned paychecks rather than unemployment checks. However, companies here in the U.S. are facing competition from around the globe, and to ensure economic prosperity over the long run we must be competitive in the world. To do this we have to address corporate tax rates.

Why do we penalize American companies for keeping their business here in the U.S.? Why are companies leaving America to go overseas? Should we not be trying to attract businesses rather than drive them away?

Mr. Speaker, the U.S. corporate tax rate is a whopping 40 percent. For every \$10 a company earns, \$4 has to be sent to the IRS. It is no wonder businesses are taking a look at moving out

of the country. Our tax code is literally sucking jobs right out of the economy by depriving our businesses of the money that should be invested in hiring.

Only one other country, Japan, taxes its companies more than we, only one other country. Mr. Speaker, clearly that is not the road we want to travel and it is not the way we want to create jobs.

REJECT WOLFOWITZ AS WORLD BANK NOMINEE

(Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I was disappointed to learn that President Bush has nominated the architect of the ongoing war of Iraq, Mr. Paul Wolfowitz, to head the World Bank.

The nominee's intimate relationship with the Iraq policy's gravest failures, phony intelligence, torture, contractor corruption, and incompetent planning, makes his nomination extremely disturbing.

□ 1015

Mr. Wolfowitz may be qualified as an expert in conducting preemptive war, but he is far from qualified to battle global poverty, overcome the AIDS pandemic or to promote gender equity, all World Bank priorities.

The world community deserves a development expert to champion the World Bank's mission of fighting poverty, a leader who can rally the world's support.

To enhance America's reputation in the world, to ensure that future success of the World Bank and to build a better future for the world's poorest citizens, I urge the World Bank's board of directors to reject this nomination.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. NUSSLE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Con. Res. 95.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CANTOR). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Iowa?

There was no objection.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 154 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 95.

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IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole

House on the State of the Union for the further 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, with Mr. SHAW (Acting Chairman) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Wednesday, March 16, 2005, a request for a recorded vote on amendment No. 2 printed in House Report 109-19, offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HENSARLING), had been postponed.

It is now in order to consider amendment No. 1 printed in House Report 109-19.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. OBEY

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 1 offered by Mr. OBEY:

In section 101 (relating to recommended levels and amounts for the budget year):

(1) In paragraph (4) (relating to the deficit), the amount of the deficit for fiscal year 2006 shall be reduced by \$10,091,000,000.

(2) In paragraph (1) (relating to Federal revenues), the recommended level of Federal revenues for fiscal year 2006 shall be increased by \$18,073,000,000 and the amount by which the aggregate level of Federal revenues should be changed shall be increased by \$18,073,000,000.

(3) In paragraph (2) (relating to new budget authority), the appropriate level of total new budget authority for fiscal year 2006 shall be increased by \$15,800,000,000.

(4) In paragraph (3) (relating to budget outlays), the appropriate level of total budget outlays for fiscal year 2006 shall be increased by \$7,982,000,000.

In section 102, for fiscal year 2006:

(1) In paragraph (1) (relating to National Defense (050)), the amount of new budget authority shall be reduced by \$1,000,000,000 and the amount of outlays shall be reduced by \$678,000,000.

(2) In paragraph (2) (relating to International Affairs (150)), the amount of new budget authority shall be reduced by \$423,000,000 and the amount of outlays shall be reduced by \$193,000,000.

(3) In paragraph (3) (relating to General Science, Space and Technology (250)), the amount of new budget authority shall be increased by \$300,000,000 and the amount of outlays shall be increased by \$150,000,000, to fund basic research and development to allow American workers to compete in the international economy.

(4) In paragraph (5) (relating to Natural Resources and Environment (300)), the amount of new budget authority shall be increased by \$100,000,000 and the amount of outlays shall be increased by \$63,000,000, to provide clean water and open spaces for future generations.

(5) In paragraph (6) (relating to Agriculture (350)), the amount of new budget authority shall be increased by \$540,000,000 and the amount of outlays shall be increased by \$446,000,000, to improve economic opportunities, infrastructure, and the quality of life for rural Americans.

(6) In paragraph (8) (relating to Transportation (400)), the amount of new budget au-

thority shall be increased by \$600,000,000 and the amount of outlays shall be increased by \$460,000,000, to improve infrastructure development.

(7) In paragraph (10) (relating to Education, Training, Employment, and Social Services (500)), the amount of new budget authority shall be increased by \$8,050,000,000 and the amount of outlays shall be increased by \$2,977,000,000, to create opportunities for our children and young adults, and to address the needs of low-income communities and assist the long-term unemployed.

(8) In paragraph (11) (relating to Health (550)), the amount of new budget authority shall be increased by \$1,950,000,000 and the amount of outlays shall be increased by \$723,000,000, to provide health care for children and others in need, control infectious diseases, foster medical research, and alleviate shortages of nurses and other health professionals.

(9) In paragraph (13) (relating to Income Security (600)), the amounts of new budget authority shall be increased by \$1,091,000,000 and the amount of outlays shall be increased by \$695,000,000, to help provide housing and energy assistance to the poor and alleviate the impact of refugees on State and local communities.

(10) In paragraph (15) (relating to Veterans Benefits and Services (700)), the amounts of new budget authority shall be increased by \$2,903,000,000 and the amount of outlays shall be increased by \$2,447,000,000, to maintain quality health care for veterans.

(11) In paragraph (17) (relating to General Government (800)), the amounts of new budget authority shall be decreased by \$56,000,000 and the amount of outlays shall be decreased by \$44,000,000, which shall include the following changes:

(A) Increase new budget authority by \$200,000,000 and outlays by \$155,000,000, to ensure corporate responsibility.

(B) Reduce new budget authority by \$256,000,000 and outlays by \$199,000,000.

(12) To improve our hometown response capabilities, strengthen our borders and ports, and meet our security mandates, amounts of new budget authority and outlays for fiscal year 2006 shall be further modified as follows:

(A) In paragraph (9) (relating to community and regional development (450)), increase new budget authority by \$660,000,000 and outlays by \$121,000,000.

(B) In paragraph (16) (relating to Administration of Justice (750)), increase new budget authority by \$935,000,000 and outlays by \$759,000,000.

(C) In paragraph (11) (relating to Health (550)), increase new budget authority by \$150,000,000 and outlays by \$56,000,000.

In section 201(b) (relating to reconciliation in the House of Representatives), insert "(1)" after "(b)" and add at the end the following new paragraph:

(2) REDUCTION IN TAX CUTS FOR TAXPAYERS WITH INCOMES ABOVE \$1,000,000.—The Committee on Ways and Means shall also include in the reconciliation bill reported pursuant to paragraph (1) changes in tax laws sufficient to increase revenues by \$25,818,000,000, to be achieved by reducing or offsetting the tax reductions received during 2006 by taxpayers with adjusted gross income above \$1,000,000 for taxpayers filing joint returns and comparable amounts for taxpayers with other filing statuses as a result of the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001 and the Jobs and Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2003.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to House Resolution 154, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. PUTNAM) each will control 20 minutes.