

come. Regardless, he went to West Virginia and told the American people that the Social Security trust fund did not exist.

So now Congressional Republicans have come up with a brilliant idea: Create private accounts with the money that exists in the trust fund. Who are Congressional Republicans trying to fool? It is clear that the Congressional Republicans are determined to privatize Social Security, despite very little support for the idea.

H. RES. 340 AND THE NEW LONDON DECISION

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

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in defense of one of the most fundamental guarantees afforded us by our Constitution, our right to own private property. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, by the narrowest of margins, the Supreme Court has, for all practical purposes, placed a for-sale sign on the doorstep of every American home or business and it reads, "for sale by government."

Mr. Speaker, by a vote of 5 to 4, these sacred property rights have been thrown out in the name of expediency and greed. Justice O'Connor stated it best in the minority's dissent when she called the majority's opinion "perverse."

Mr. Speaker, this perversity cannot stand. Therefore, I introduce House Resolution 340 to demonstrate this House's resolve and dedication to defend our constitutionally guaranteed property rights. I call on all Members of this Chamber on both sides of the aisle to speak in one voice in defense of the Constitution.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATHAM). The Chair must remind all Members, and this does not refer to the immediately previous speaker, that they should not make derogatory statements toward the President.

THE SECURITY AND FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT ACT

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

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ZOE LOFGREN) for including the Security and Financial Empowerment Act in her comprehensive VAWA bill.

Domestic violence, in addition to being a personal tragedy, costs employers millions of dollars in sick leave, absenteeism and loss of productivity, and it causes thousands of victims to lose

their job, forcing them to stay in an abusive relationship when unable to provide for themselves and their children.

The provisions of the SAFE Act protect the economic security of these victims by permitting up to 30 days of unpaid leave to see a doctor, go to court or find a safe place to live. Further, it prohibits insurers from dropping their coverage due to this violence, and it assures that women forced to leave their lives because of this abuse are eligible for unemployment compensation.

Finally, the bill creates a resource center for businesses seeking to help employees who suffer from domestic violence.

Mr. Speaker, the SAFE Act is an important bill that must be included in the reauthorization of VAWA. It helps employers to keep valuable employees, and it empowers victims of domestic violence to leave their abuser.

FAMILY BUDGET PROTECTION ACT

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

Mr. CHOCOLA. Mr. Speaker, every day families and businesses across America have to make tough decisions. They have to live within a budget and eliminate wasteful spending. The Federal Government should act no differently.

So I have joined my colleagues in reintroducing the Family Budget Protection Act in this Congress. It is legislation that gives the budget resolution the force of law. It limits the growth of spending. It places a premium on combating waste, fraud and abuse. And it forces us to honestly account for long-term funding obligations.

Together, these reforms will help balance the budget, promote more responsible spending and encourage Congress to make the same tough decisions that confront American families and small businesses every single day.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to demonstrate our commitment to fiscal discipline and join me in supporting the Family Budget Protection Act.

ADMINISTRATION POLICIES IN IRAQ BASED ON FAILURE AND FALSEHOOD

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

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, our proud troops in Iraq last night deserved an address that showed a President committed to effectiveness and truth. The sad fact is that these administration policies are based on failure and falsehood.

The failure is that, a full 2 years after the Iraq war started, we still have less than 15 percent, less than three battalions, that this administration

has effectively trained that are ready for combat operations to replace American military personnel and bring them home.

This is a spectacular record of failure. After 2 years of us here in this Chamber demanding that the President train these troops so that they can replace the American GIs and Marines, we have three battalions, and that is it; after 2 years?

This has happened because of the rose-colored glasses that this administration has worn, thinking we were going to be greeted like liberators in Paris. They were wrong. And it is based on falsehood, falsehood when the President stood right behind me and said that there was WMDs. There was not, and now he is trying to bait and switch.

THE TRUTH ABOUT SAVING SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I have never heard so many negative statements as we see coming from the other side of the aisle, with speaker after speaker, most of them scripted, making false accusations as to what the Republicans are doing with Social Security.

If they are going to criticize what the Republicans are doing to try to save Social Security, let them come forward with their plan. Everybody knows that Social Security is going to be going into the red beginning in 2017. Everybody who has done any research knows there is a \$26 trillion shortfall over the next 75 years in cash. So what are they doing? They are sitting there making false accusations about what we are trying to do.

One of the speakers just this morning said that we were going to diminish the trust fund by putting the Treasury bills into the individual accounts. Nothing could be more wrong.

I assume that these statements are being made out of ignorance and not out of knowledge of the truth, because we know what it is when you say something that you know is not true.

HONEST TALK, NOT GIMMICKS, NEEDED ON SOCIAL SECURITY REFORM

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

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to respond to the last one minute, indeed to set the record straight. The gentleman from Florida said the Republican plans do not make solvency worse. Read the DeMint plan. The only way that the Shaw-McCrery plan does not make it worse is by borrowing money and by counting the same money twice.

The gentleman talks about the urgency of the shortfall, but the

McCrery-Shaw-et al. plan does zero to address the shortfall. It avoids the issue. It is what the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SHAW) called a “no-pain plan.” It is a “duck-the-issue plan.”

Essentially what the Republican plan proposed by the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. MCCRERY) is, it is filled with gimmicks. We need honest talk, not more gimmicks.

IT IS TIME REPUBLICANS TAKE SOCIAL SECURITY PRIVATIZATION OFF THE TABLE

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

Mr. MELANCON. Mr. Speaker, let me just say, first, before I start, you are doing a wonderful job this morning.

Mr. Speaker, last week, we learned how determined the majority party is to approve any Social Security reform bill as long as it includes privatization. Despite the fact that the American people have already rejected President Bush’s privatization proposal, it appears that the Congressional Republicans are not willing yet to let privatization die.

The American people should know that this latest proposal is similar to the President’s plan in several respects:

First, the new proposal would divert payroll contributions that are now being held for future beneficiaries into these risky, private accounts. By merely diverting Social Security funds, the plan would still force large benefit cuts on today’s seniors and tomorrow’s beneficiaries. And, just like the President’s plan, the Republican legislative proposal does nothing to address the real issue facing Social Security, and that is solvency.

Mr. Speaker, the American people have seen what can happen to pensions and the stock market and how important a guaranteed Social Security benefit is to their retirement security. It is time that our Republican colleagues realize that privatization just is not going to fly, no matter how you package it.

MISGUIDED PRIORITIES AT THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION

(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, I was appalled to learn that a VA Undersecretary stated that the highest priority of the VA was to display a picture of the VA Secretary in every VA facility.

I was appalled, because that very day I also learned that the VA Secretary admitted that there was a \$1 billion shortfall in the veterans health care budget and that the administration knew this in April but presented their budget to Congress anyway, knowing that it was shamefully inaccurate and

inadequate to meet the health care needs of our veterans. They lied to Congress.

As a member of the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, I saw firsthand the administration mock the veterans service organizations when they testified that the VA needed an additional \$1.2 billion to provide health care to our veterans. They defended their numbers, knowing that they were \$1 billion short.

One VA official said, upon learning that the highest priority was putting the VA Secretary’s photo in every VA facility, “And here we are trying to figure out where our next patient meal is coming from and what furniture to sell to buy drugs next year.”

Talk about misguided priorities.

SUPPORT PRESIDENT’S PROPOSAL TO REFORM SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the President’s proposal to reform our Social Security system. I also rise in support of the Members of the House of Representatives that have put forward a plan which would allow each individual in this country that is covered under Social Security to make a decision to have part of their payroll taxes invested in government securities, in U.S. Treasury bonds.

There are two differences between this proposal and the current law. Under current law, the surplus in the Social Security fund is invested aggregate in what are called Social Security Trust Bonds. Those are government bonds, except they are not marketable, and they are not in any individual’s names.

The proposal that some Members of the House of Representatives propounded this week is to allow an individual to take parts of their individual payroll tax and invest it in a government security, a U.S. Treasury security in their name, which would be a marketable security.

I think this proposal is long overdue, and I rise first in strong support of the President’s proposal to reform our Social Security program and in the proposal that the Members of the House have put forward.

□ 1045

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT REAUTHORIZATION

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am very proud to be an original cosponsor of the Violence Against Women Act reauthorization authored by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ZOE LOFGREN).

I am very pleased to say that the Violence Against Women Act has been a success in terms of protecting women, but the statistics on domestic violence remain alarming. Nearly one in four women experiences at least one physical assault by a partner during her adulthood. It is important that we stand united in protecting women across America.

I am delighted that two of my provisions will be included in this legislation containing issues on DNA and trafficking. We can stand together to protect women around America, and I hope this Congress will be wise enough to move this legislation along quickly so that we can stamp out the devastation of violence against women.

As women are violated, children are impacted, and protecting families means protecting women; it means having strong laws.

Support the Violence Against Women reauthorization for it to be reauthorized and to be able to stand tall against violence and to stand for protecting the sanctity of the family and our children.

OPPOSE CUTS TO HOUSING PROGRAMS

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

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, later today, the House will consider the Transportation, Treasury, HUD, the Judiciary, District of Columbia, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for 2006. While I commend the Committee on Appropriations for rejecting the President’s Strengthening America’s Communities Initiative, which would have transferred the Community Development Block Grant from HUD to the Department of Commerce for consolidation of 17 other programs, I am concerned with the gross underfunding of HUD programs in this bill.

The good and decent people around this Nation need to know that the Department of Housing and Urban Development’s programs are primarily designed to address the housing and community development needs of disadvantaged communities. Unfortunately, the House bill slashed its funding for a number of vital Federal programs that have been central to the revitalization efforts underway in our Nation’s cities, including Kansas City, Lee’s Summit, and Independence, Missouri. The bill proposes to fund CDBG at \$250 million below fiscal year 2005 levels and provide zero funding for important programs such as section 108 loans, Youthbuild, Brownfields, Hope VI, and Empowerment Zones.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in opposing these cuts.

While we have all heard the Administration tout national homeownership rates, it is confusing because the House majority has proposed cutting programs that are designed to increase the homeownership rates for lower-income and minority households. These actions demonstrate that some in this legislative