

But that's what Las Vegas real estate developers and home builders thought in 2006. My sense is that once again, well-intentioned public policy and greedy providers have produced a bubble that is about to burst.

CUT, CAP, AND BALANCE ACT OF
2011

SPEECH OF

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 19, 2011

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to H.R. 2560, the so-called "Cut, Cap, and Balance the Federal Budget Act."

This bill should properly be called the "Cut, Cap, and End Medicare and Destroy Social Security Act," or quite plainly the "Cut, Cap, and Plunge the United States into Default Act."

Mr. Speaker, this is exactly what will happen if this legislation is passed. My colleagues across the aisle would have us believe that the proposed legislation is the answer to all the debt crisis but any attempt to balance the budget on the backs of seniors, veterans and America's working families isn't an answer; it's a cruel joke, but one with real consequences.

The American people did not send us here to play games. Instead, they want us to work together to adopt fiscally sound pro-growth policies that puts our financial house in order and will give a rocket boost to our economy so that it creates millions of good-paying jobs for all of our people.

We can do this. We did it in the 1990s when under the leadership of President Clinton we balanced the budget four consecutive years, paid down the national debt, created 23 million new jobs, and left \$5 trillion in projected surpluses.

It is not a serious proposal to legislate a spending cap of 18 percent of GDP, a level that has not occurred since 1966, before the escalation of the Vietnam War.

But this isn't 1966. It's 45 years later, and in 2011 we face greater challenges. Our population has increased by 57 percent, we are living nearly 10 years longer on average, and the percentage of citizens age 65 and up has climbed to 13 percent.

In my district 63,000 men and women receive Medicare annually and 40,000 receive Social Security, and tens of thousands more will soon reach eligibility age. How can I look them in the eye and tell them that the benefits they are entitled to, that they have worked so hard for over the years, are not coming?

More Americans than ever rely on Medicare and Social Security to pay for the ever increasing costs of health care and provide for themselves in retirement. In my district, Social Security constitutes 90% or more of the income received by 34 percent of beneficiaries (21 percent of married couples and 43 percent of non-married beneficiaries).

Passing H.R. 2560 will result in draconian cuts to these vital benefits. Doing so would leave our most vulnerable citizens exposed and unprotected. I cannot and will not support a proposal that will inflict such grave hardship on the most vulnerable of our citizens while asking nothing of those who benefited most from the reckless economic policies of the previous administration.

Mr. Speaker, the times are serious but this legislation is not. In two weeks the debt limit will be reached so time is of the essence. This legislation, however, is a waste of time and has no chance of ever becoming law. We should reject this proposal and take up a serious proposal to resolve the debt crisis and maintain our country's A+ credit rating.

It is difficult to take seriously a proposal that conditions, as this bill does, paying the nation's bills upon the approval by the House and Senate, and submission to the states for ratification, of a radical balanced budget amendment that enshrines the notorious Ryan Budget in the Constitution and makes the discredited theory of trickle-down economics the law of the land. That is a prescription for economic disaster.

Passage of this gimmick proposal will virtually ensure that America will default on its financial obligations for the first time in history, with catastrophic consequences for our nation and the global economy.

Seniors will not receive their Social Security checks; funding to train, equip, deploy, and pay military and law enforcement personnel will be withheld; interest rates will rise; the value of pensions and retirement portfolios will fall; and jobs will be lost.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is nothing more than political theater; at best a cheap gimmick to appease the Tea Party base of the majority party in the House. But it's not the right thing for our country.

What we need right now is for responsible leaders to act responsibly. As legislators, our constituents are looking to us to get serious about the serious work we need to do to protect the economy, our people, and the nation's unrivaled record of creditworthiness. They deserve no less.

For all these reasons, I stand in strong and unyielding opposition to H.R. 2560 and urge my colleagues to join me in rejecting this radical and dangerous proposal.

INTRODUCING A RESOLUTION IN
SUPPORT OF THE 6TH IAS CON-
FERENCE ON HIV PATHO-
GENESIS, TREATMENT, AND PRE-
VENTION

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 20, 2011

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution in support of the 6th IAS Conference on HIV Pathogenesis, Treatment, and Prevention (IAS 2011), which takes place from July 17, 2011, through July 20, 2011, in Rome, Italy. This year's conference is of particular importance given the first documented case of a patient being cured of HIV infection and global resurgence of tuberculosis (TB), including multidrug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB) and extensively drug-resistant tuberculosis (XDR-TB). My resolution supports a strong international response to HIV/AIDS; the rights of those infected; and increased access to testing, treatment, and care.

There are currently 33.4 million people living with HIV/AIDS worldwide and more than 25 million have died of AIDS since the first cases were reported in 1981. In the United States, approximately 1.1 million people are living with

HIV/AIDS and someone is newly infected with HIV every 9.5 minutes. To make matters worse, one in five individuals living with HIV is unaware of their infection, and significant disparities persist across different communities and populations with regard to incidence, access to treatment, and health outcomes.

The biennial IAS Conference on HIV Pathogenesis, Treatment, and Prevention is the world's largest open scientific conference on HIV/AIDS, attracting about 5,000 delegates from around the world. Together with the International AIDS Conference, which will next be held in Washington, DC from July 22, 2012, through July 27, 2012, it provides the world's leading scientists, clinicians, policymakers, and community leaders with a unique opportunity to examine the latest developments in HIV research and how scientific advances can practically guide the national and global response to HIV/AIDS.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CDC, TB is the leading cause of death among persons with HIV worldwide and XDR-TB is resistant to the most powerful first-line and second-line drugs. The improper treatment of TB in HIV-infected individuals perpetuates the spread of this infectious disease as well as bolsters drug resistance, which poses a tremendous threat to public health in the United States and abroad. Improved efforts to prevent and treat TB among people living with HIV, including the development of new, transformational antibiotic drugs, can save millions of lives.

Several organizations, including small business biotechnology companies, developing therapeutic vaccines and other immune-based therapies are presenting updates on their clinical research at IAS 2011. In addition, the National Association of People With AIDS (NAPWA) and Health People, the first community-based organization for women infected with HIV in the United States, are hosting the NAPWA "Treatment Horizons: Pathways to a Functional Cure" satellite symposium, which is officially affiliated with IAS 2011. Therapeutic vaccine candidates and immune-based therapies such as those being presented at IAS 2011 may lead to a "functional cure" for HIV/AIDS.

Mr. Speaker, continued commitment by the United States to HIV/AIDS research, prevention, and treatment programs is crucial to protecting global health. I urge my colleagues to support my resolution, which recognizes the important contributions of the 6th IAS Conference on HIV Pathogenesis, Treatment, and Prevention in the global struggle to end the HIV/AIDS pandemic. If we are to be successful in preventing the transmission of HIV and tuberculosis and improving the health outcomes of people living with HIV/AIDS, we must encourage the ongoing development of innovative therapies, advances in clinical treatment, and new, transformational antibiotic drugs to treat infectious diseases.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 20, 2011

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 601 and 602, I was unavoidably detained.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

INVASION OF CYPRUS

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 20, 2011

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw attention to the anniversary of Turkey's invasion of Cyprus, which occurred on July 20, 1974. In violation of international law, Turkish troops occupied the northern part of Cyprus, and established an armed force that continues to occupy nearly over one third of Cyprus' territory.

The invasion and continuing occupation of the northern part of the island has resulted in the continuing presence of a force of thousands of Turkish troops, mass violation of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of the Cypriot people, and the destruction of cultural and religious artifacts. On September 28, 2010, the U.S. House of Representatives unanimously passed H. Res. 1631 which calls for the protection of religious sites and artifacts from and in Turkish-occupied areas of northern Cyprus, as well as for general respect for religious freedom.

Over the years, Cyprus has proven itself to be a reliable partner of the U.S. Throughout the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, Cyprus has provided over-flight and landing rights to United States aircraft and port access for U.S. ships. Furthermore, during the Lebanon crisis of 2006, Cyprus served as the principal transit location for people evacuating Lebanon, including some 15,000 U.S. citizens.

Cyprus and the U.S. also share a deep and abiding commitment to upholding the ideals of freedom, democracy, justice, human rights, and the international rule of law. It is time for Turkey to share this goal with the Government of the Republic of Cyprus and work earnestly and constructively with the Cypriots for a true reunification of the island as a bizonal, bicomunal federation with political equality, as defined in the relevant U.N. Security Council resolutions.

Such a solution would not only serve the best interests of all Cypriots, but ultimately the interests of the U.S. in promoting stability in the Eastern Mediterranean.

The aim remains to work towards a solution which will establish a bicomunal, bizonal federation with respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all Cypriots.

IN MEMORY OF PEGGY GREENWAY

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 20, 2011

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great American and faithful public servant of the State of Georgia, a woman of great faith, and a personal friend, Peggy Greenway.

Although she was born and raised in Alabama, Peggy's heart and home was our great State of Georgia. She was an active part of the Albany community for 37 years before

moving to Vienna, Georgia, and finally relocating to Dublin, Georgia.

Peggy loved Southern Gospel music and had a deep faith in the Lord. She was a cherished member of the Byne Memorial Baptist Church in Albany, the Pinecrest Baptist Church in Vienna, and the Dublin Baptist Church in Dublin. Through her work with the Byne Memorial youth group, she touched many lives; those who knew and loved her described Peggy as a fine Christian and loving lady.

In addition to her devout faith, Peggy was an enthusiastic employee; I first witnessed Peggy's dedicated work ethic during my first term in Congress. Peggy served as a case-worker and as Director of Constituent Services for my district in our Albany office. For more than a decade, she worked tirelessly to fight for the citizens of the Second Congressional District of Georgia. Whether it was an issue with Social Security or the VA, Peggy was an expert at providing constituent care.

Peggy's expertise was a great asset to the Second District, a calling which first began under Rep. Charles Hatcher. Peggy also faithfully served the Eighth Congressional District of Georgia, handling casework for the constituents of Representatives Jim Marshall, and AUSTIN SCOTT. She also worked for Congressman J. Roy Rowland.

As Members of Congress, we are well aware of Peggy's dedication to improving her community. She honed her commitment to excellence when she began her career working at WALB, the local television station in Albany, and also for Judge Asa Kelley.

Peggy's unyielding strength of character will truly be missed. She lived a full life, and her selfless dedication to the citizens of Georgia is her lasting legacy. My thoughts and prayers are with her family, especially her daughters, Tammy and Julee, and her beloved grandchildren, Cade Greenway, Cole Bailey, Camryn Bailey, Cara Bailey and Conner Bailey.

Leonardo da Vinci said, "As a well-spent day brings happy sleep, so a life well used brings happy death." Peggy Greenway utilized her God-given gifts to improve the lives of others, and her days were well-spent; therefore, Mr. Speaker, I know that she can rest happy.

THE FUTURE OF CYPRUS

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 20, 2011

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, for several years, I have come to this Floor to urge my colleagues to support efforts to achieve a resolution to the dispute on Cyprus. Tragically, I find myself here once again as yet another year has gone by with no end to the conflict.

While the Cyprus dispute is most directly between Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots, it has larger implications for regional security and prosperity. Over the past few decades this dispute has involved not only the Cypriot communities, but also Turkey, Greece, the United Kingdom, the United States, the United Nations, and the European Union. Moreover, Turkey's membership to the European Union, which the United States enthusiastically sup-

ports, is unfortunately being impacted because of the impasse over Cyprus.

In 2003, it looked like we were on the cusp of a resolution when Cypriots voted on the United Nations backed Annan Plan which would have created the United Cyprus Republic, as a loose confederation of two component states—the Greek Cypriot State and the Turkish Cypriot State.

That plan provided a strong framework for a bi-zonal, bi-communal unified Cyprus; and the U.S. House of Representatives strongly endorsed the plan by unanimously approving a Sense of the House to that effect. Regrettably, the Annan Plan did not succeed when put to a referendum.

Since the collapse of the Annan Plan peace efforts have moved forward sporadically. The latest round of talks began on July 7th of this year when Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot leaders met in Geneva under the auspices of the UN Secretary General. I welcome these meetings. The status quo on Cyprus clearly benefits no one. It must end and the time is now.

Ultimately, the Cypriots themselves are the ones who must make the tough decisions that will ensure a peaceful future for their island. Nevertheless, I urge the administration to work with all stakeholders to ensure that a future unified Cyprus is a Cyprus that respects human rights and the fundamental freedoms for all Cypriots. Any unnatural or unnecessary artificial limitations imposed on either community are a recipe for future disaster.

Mr. Speaker, I truly believe that a lasting, fair and comprehensive solution to the conflict on Cyprus is possible. If we avoid inflammatory rhetoric and political statements and instead work in unison to bolster the efforts of the Greek Cypriots and the Turkish Cypriots to work together in good faith for the future of all Cypriots; the future will be bright for Cyprus.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 20, 2011

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today our national debt is \$14,342,898,467,069.07.

On January 6, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was \$10,638,425,746,293.80.

This means the national debt has increased by \$3,704,471,720,775.27 since then.

This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans.

THE PASSING OF MYRA HIATT KRAFT

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 20, 2011

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in great sadness to mark the passing of one of the most beloved residents of Massachusetts, my good friend, Mrs. Myra Hiatt Kraft.