

the sole determinant of the best strategy.

I believe that the peer review activities for more costly regulations are a good way to ensure the efficacy and the efficiency of our Federal rulemaking process. H.R. 1022 contains all of these provisions and makes the Federal Government a legitimate problem solver, not a problem maker.

Some of my colleagues who have opposed this legislation say it will create a new bureaucratic mess and will benefit lawyers more than individuals. I must say that I find their arguments to be basically an attempt to cover up the regulatory mess they instituted.

Risk assessment and cost-benefit analysis using the best available data and input will bring out the best governing decisions.

Mr. Speaker, this regulation protects the environment and public health because it means resources will be used to combat real environmental and public health risks and not be wasted on frivolous regulations and requirements.

MORE ON CUTS AFFECTING WOMEN AND CHILDREN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 1995, the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. DURBIN] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DURBIN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. Speaker, this morning I would like to share a few stories with you that I think are appropriate when you look at the debate which we are facing here in Washington, not only this week but for the next several weeks.

They are about some children. They are kids that I remember but I do not know their names. Let me tell you why.

The first child I remember was in St. John's Hospital in Springfield, IL in my district. I was invited to come to the unit there where premature infants are being cared for and of course you put on a gown and a mask and walk in with the nurse and the doctor. And they pointed to a tiny little isolette with a little baby in there, no larger than the size of my hand, a baby that had its eyes taped shut and had more tubes and monitors in its small body than were imaginable.

The story of course was that that baby was born too soon and as a result would be in this intensive care unit for at least a month and maybe longer with the hopes that when she did come out at the end, she would then be able to grow like a normal baby and lead a normal life.

The heroic efforts that were being undertaken for that infant are repeated every day across America. Unfortunately, repeated too many times.

Several years ago we took a look at the incidence of low-birth-weight babies in our country and found some

shocking results. It turns out that the infant death rate in America was higher several years ago than in most industrialized countries in the world. Think about it. Our country, with the best medical resources, was still having children born of low birth weight with problems that really haunted them, many of them for the rest of their lives. When I talked to the head of the medical school, Dr. Richard Moy in Springfield, IL at the SIU Medical School, he said, "Congressman, the saddest part of it, this is entirely preventable; this is entirely preventable. If we can bring mothers in early in their regular pregnancy, give them prenatal care, we have the medical knowledge to deliver a healthy baby in virtually every case."

So the Federal Government, which is often the butt boy and the target of so many criticisms, decided to really invest money to reduce the number of low birth weight babies. The program we chose is one that has been around for awhile. It is called the WIC Program, the Women, Infants and Children's Supplemental Feeding Program. And we decided to take some of our precious Federal tax dollars and put it into our most precious asset, these children who will be tomorrow's leaders, our kids.

And you know what, it is working. It is working because now 40 percent of the infants in America are being brought into the WIC Program, kids especially vulnerable from low income families. I am proud to tell you that we are seeing the infant death rate in this country go down. Surely we still have low-birth-weight kids but not as many as we would without the WIC Program.

The reason I tell you this story and tell you the story about this little infant is that we are now debating whether or not to cut the money for that WIC Program. That is right, whether or not we are going to cut the money for the program that is trying to keep fewer low-birth-weight babies being born in America. In the name of a balanced budget, in the name of cutting spending, in the name of reducing the Federal role, we are going to cut this program.

My friends, the Republicans on the other side say it is the way to save money. Do you really save money with a low-birth-weight baby? Do you know how much it cost at St. John's Hospital several years ago for that low-birth-weight baby? At least \$1,000 a day. So a pregnancy, which ordinarily would cost \$1,500 to \$2,000 under normal circumstances ended up with a baby that costs us, as taxpayers, \$30,000 a month with the hopes that that little girl would come out of that experience and lead a normal life and not need more care afterward.

What a false economy. Yet the Republicans argue that reducing the money for WIC is what America really needs and really wants for its future.

Let me shift to another child, a child I saw in my own hometown again, at a

school breakfast program. A happy child, a kid who was having fun, who got to school early so that she could get that little lunch or little breakfast, rather, and have her day ahead of her. She was happy and bouncing around and having a good time of it. I talked to a teacher about the school breakfast program and school lunch program. I said, what do they mean to you? And she said they mean everything. Did you ever consider the chore that faces a teacher trying to teach a child who is hungry? That child is listless, stares at its hands, stares at the floor, cannot concentrate. I do not have a chance, she said, in terms of teaching that child.

So we invest each year in the basics of providing nutrition for school lunch programs and school breakfasts so that kids can go through that learning experience and come out happy, healthy, and learning. The Republicans have told us we need to cut that program, too. I hope we keep those images in mind as we get into this budget debate. We certainly cannot have a strong America without strong children. It is a false economy for us to cut programs for children, and I hope that the Gingrich Republicans will think twice before they make these cuts.

□ 1010

THE 2-PERCENT SOLUTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DICKEY). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 1995, the gentleman from Colorado [Mr. ALLARD] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, the House of Representatives passed the balanced budget amendment last month. Today, the Senate will decide the fate of this critical reform. Whether the vote is yes or no, Congress will still need a statutory mechanism to ensure that spending is put on a glide-path to balance by the year 2002. I propose the 2-percent solution.

Shortly, I will introduce legislation to establish caps that will limit overall spending growth to 2 percent a year. If this level is exceeded in any year, an across-the-board sequester will kick in and force the necessary cuts, excluding Social Security and certain other contractual obligations.

With 2 percent growth the Federal Government can balance the budget of 2002 and still spend \$1 trillion more over the next 7 years than it would under a 7 year freeze. Two percent growth will allow us to enact the tax cuts of the Contract With America and achieve the first balanced budget in 33 years.

Two weeks ago, I attended a Budget Committee field hearing outside of the beltway to hear the views of our constituents. Over 1,000 people showed up and the message was clear—cut spending. Just do it, balance the budget.

That is what the Republican majority plans to do.

During the debate on the balanced budget amendment, the rhetoric was thick with charges that the Congress does not need a constitutional amendment to balance the budget, all we need to do is offer a balanced budget. Well, the need for the balanced budget amendment is shown clearly by the President's just released budget.

The President's budget is a lost opportunity to do what he called for in his State of the Union speech, a balanced budget without the need for a constitutional amendment. In the President's budget, there is no entitlement reform, no welfare reform, and spending in most major departments goes up. Department of the Interior spending is up; HUD and the Labor Department get an increase in spending; the EPA gets an increase in spending; the Energy Department gets a spending increase even through the administration once talked about abolishing the Department; and even the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities get increases.

The bottom line is not a balanced budget, it is \$200 billion deficits as far as the eye can see.

This is not what the average American is looking for. America wants a balanced budget. Unfortunately, the President has left the heavy lifting to the Republican Congress. Our goal is not \$200 billion deficits, but a balanced budget with zero deficits. We must lead and meet the challenge and produce a budget that makes the tough cuts.

During the balanced budget debate, some questioned whether we can ever balance the budget. Opponents like to point to the fact that over \$1.2 trillion in spending must be reduced. This huge number is used to show how painful it would be to actually enforce a balanced budget amendment by 2002.

This argument could only occur inside the beltway. Though Republicans abolished baseline budgeting on opening day, much more must be done before the terms of the debate are changed.

Baseline budgeting is the process of assuming automatic spending increases every year. If Congress appropriates anything less than the baseline spending growth, there has been a cut. I suspect most Americans believe a cut is when you spend less than you did the year before, not less than you thought you would spend.

The current debate about a balanced budget amendment demonstrates why this issue of baseline budgeting is so important. Every nickel of the \$1.2 trillion that must be cut is projected baseline growth.

As the chart next to me shows, the CBO projects that spending growth will average 5.3 percent a year through 2002. Under this scenario Federal spending will grow from \$1.5 trillion this year to \$2.2 trillion in 2002, and the deficit in

2002 will be well in excess of \$300 billion.

Of course, this assumes Congress does nothing to alter current spending patterns. If Congress instead manages to hold overall spending growth to 2 percent per year, the payoff for this discipline will be the first balanced budget in 33 years. And as I noted earlier, \$1 trillion more will still be spent over those 7 years than if spending had been frozen.

So let me answer the doubters, there is no doubt about it, we can balance the budget by 2002. It can be done in a reasoned and responsible manner—by holding overall spending growth to 2 percent a year.

It is not my intention to suggest that this will be easy. It will be difficult, particularly for those programs that are growing rapidly. But this is Congress' job, it is what the American people want.

Over the last three decades Congress has dropped the ball on the budget. This is why we need the balanced budget amendment and the 2-percent solution. With them we can build a secure future for our grandchildren.

A SCORCHED EARTH POLICY IN THE REPUBLICAN'S WAR ON CHILDREN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 1995, the gentleman from Massachusetts [Mr. OLVER] is recognized during morning business for 3 minutes.

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, legend has it that Republicans know more about making profitable investments than Democrats, but with the Contract on America, that legend becomes a vicious myth.

The Republicans want to slash funding for children's foster care, and children's adoption assistance, and child abuse prevention, and children's care while parents have to work, and preschool children's Head Start, and Drug Free Schools for Children, and children's health care, and children's school lunches, and prenatal nutrition, which has saved billions of dollars by reducing the number of low birthweight babies born in this country, as the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. DURBIN] spoke so eloquently about just a few minutes ago.

These extremists are not even happy with hungry children. They want to cut every penny of home energy assistance, so thousands of children are going to go to bed cold as well as hungry.

Mr. Speaker, Americans should understand exactly what is going on with this extremist agenda. This is not about thoughtful, even-handed deficit reduction. It goes much further than the elimination of bureaucracy or waste. This is a scorched earth policy in the Republican war on children.

The radical right extremist agenda is to wash their hands of any responsibility for the welfare of the American family, shift that responsibility to the States, and at the same time, cut billions of dollars needed by the States to

adequately protect children; protect their health, their safety, their schooling, and their stomachs.

It is even a myth that these cuts reduce the deficit. Our radical right is willing to hurt children so they can buy fantasy projects like the star wars antiballistic missile system, and so they can shovel out massive tax breaks to the very wealthiest few Americans.

Children cannot vote, so they are being trashed, and it is shameful. The health, the schooling, and the safety of children should be the first priority for every Member of Congress whose job it is to build a better nation. It is shameful to throw the responsibility to the States and then cut the dollars the States need to meet it.

When they cannot meet it, we will all find out that turning our backs on children is a terrible way to invest in America's future.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the House will stand in recess until 12 noon.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 17 minutes a.m.) the House stood in recess until 12 noon.

□ 1100

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. ZELIFF].

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Rev. James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

For all the opportunities, O God, that lie before us and every person, we offer our thanks; for all the possibilities for knowledge and understanding, we are grateful; for friends and family and colleagues who support us and help show the way, we express our gratitude. May we be so fervent in our tasks, gracious God, that we will be worthy of the calling we have been given to be of service to other people in doing the deeds of justice and by providing leadership in the cause of peace and reconciliation for every person. Bless us this day and every day, we pray. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. HOBSON] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.