

BALANCE THE BUDGET WITH THE RECONCILIATION BILL

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

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, it is late in the fourth quarter, the score is tied. The outcome is uncertain. The American taxpayers are on the edge of their seats. Will Congress and the President keep their promise to balance the budget? I do not know of anyone who ran against a balanced budget. We all said we were responsible enough, we were smart enough, we were tough enough to make the hard decisions. Even the President ran on balancing the budget in 5 years. So are we going to keep our word? The American public wants to know. They are tired of the excuses, the nitpicking, the pet programs.

Mr. Speaker, they know that it is their money, not the Government's money. It is time to do what every American household does, what every American business does, what common sense cries out for. Let us balance the Federal budget and do it with the Reconciliation Act.

STOP THE VIOLENCE

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

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, as we stand here in sorrow still in the shadow of the terrible assassination of Yitzhak Rabin, we say to the far right, particularly the religious far right in the country and around the world, put aside your ugly poster. Still the mean words. Support a sane, safe separation of church and State. Stop the violence, far right. Put down your guns.

BALANCED BUDGET WITHIN OUR GRASP

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

Mrs. SEASTRAND. Mr. Speaker, for the first time in a generation, a real balanced budget is within grasp. For the first time in a long time, Congress has acted responsibly. It has held itself accountable. It has made tough decisions and is doing the right thing for America's future.

This time, Congress has laid aside the excuses that previous Congresses made for not balancing the budget and then passing its financial responsibilities to future generations.

This time, this new Congress has said no to the Washington-style budget gimmicks that never work and always cause the American people to lose confidence in our system of government.

Today, the national debt stands at \$4,984,737,460,958.92.

For the first time in years Congress is serious about balancing the budget.

We owe it to our children to secure for them the American dream and not to keep adding to the American debt.

AMERICAN PEOPLE REJECT EXTREMISM OF REPUBLICAN REVOLUTION

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, some people just do not get it. Last night, as voters all over the country were rejecting the extreme agenda of the Gingrich revolution, House Republicans were working behind closed doors to raise Medicare premiums.

Medicare part B premiums were scheduled to drop to a 25-percent rate, but late last night, Republicans voted to raise those premiums to 31.5 percent. That means instead of \$42 a month, seniors will pay \$53 a month beginning on January 1.

The Gingrich revolution means that seniors will pay more for Medicare, students will pay more to go to college, and middle-class working families will pay more in taxes. That is wrong.

Yesterday, the American people rejected the extremism of the Gingrich revolution. Today, Members of this body should follow their lead and reject the continuing resolution that will increase Medicare premiums for seniors.

WE MUST BALANCE THE BUDGET

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

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, it is a common fact that you cannot spend money that you do not have and expect to get away with it. We all must repay our own personal debts or face harsh consequences if we do not. But it seems that here in Washington debt is consistently ignored by the people who are spending the taxpayers money.

Mr. Speaker, our Federal Government has run up a debt of nearly \$5 trillion by spending money that it does not have. The consequences to future generations if this behavior continues will be severe. The irresponsibility practiced by previous Congresses will be the burden that future generations will be forced to bear. No one deserves that kind of treatment.

So what do we need to do to make sure this does not happen? We must balance the budget—not only this year, but every year. Our children and all that follow are depending on us.

MERRY CHRISTMAS, SENIORS

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

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, there is a chill in the air in many cities

in America, so people start thinking about the holidays and doing their holiday shopping.

Well, if my colleagues have any people on their holiday list, like I do, who are on Medicare, the Gingrich Republicans have just shown what they better given them, because last night, and today, they are giving them a huge increase in part B premiums.

So, if my colleagues have Medicare people on their shopping list, get a pretty box and stuff cash in it, because what they are going to need is another \$11 a month, \$132 a year, just to get through 1996.

"Merry Christmas, seniors," from the Gingrich Republicans.

AMERICAN PUBLIC SEES THROUGH MEDIGOQUERY

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

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, the part B premium that we have been hearing about from the other side is going to remain fixed at 31.5 percent. That is what it is at now; that is what it will remain at. That is what the President's plan called for it to stay at, and the Democrats know, they absolutely know, that in order to save Medicare, it must stay at that.

The part B premium will go up from about \$47.10 to around \$53. That is \$6. At the same time, the average Social Security monthly benefit will go up about \$25, obviously a net increase for seniors.

Mr. Speaker, the American public can see through the demagoguery and medigoquery that is being brought by the other side. I want to share from polls that were just released last week. This is the CBS–New York Times poll. "Who do you think can handle the most important problems facing the United States, congressional Republicans or President Clinton?" Forty percent said Republicans; 30 percent said President Clinton.

"Which party better represents your views on national issues?" Fifty-five percent said Republicans; 25 percent said Democrats.

ELECTION RESULTS SHOW AMERICANS REJECT REPUBLICAN REVOLUTION

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

Mr. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I notice the other side is not talking about the elections yesterday. Voters around the country yesterday put the brakes on the Republican revolution with this message: "You are going too far and too fast to the right, and we are sending you a message to cool it." Voters want the mainstream rather than the extreme; the center, rather than the right.