

could yield to me so that I could have the opportunity to answer the question that he asked of me.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair is unable to recognize that unanimous-consent request. The gentleman is limited to 5 minutes.

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, how many additional people are there on the list, sir?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Approximately 15.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I have a parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state it.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, in keeping with going back and forth between Democrat and Republican, is it not true that a Democrat can ask for unanimous consent for 5 minutes to speak out of order and then the gentleman from Mississippi can get 5 minutes if no one objects?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is correct.

□ 1345

A BALANCED BUDGET?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GANSKE). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Hawaii [Mr. ABERCROMBIE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, parliamentary inquiry before we go on.

I understand what is at stake here. But is the ruling of the Chair about continuing because, if we start this process, that means those who have signed up will have to wait a longer time? Is that the reason for proceeding this way?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair cannot recognize Members for extensions of 5-minute special orders.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. I understand. I thank the Chair.

I have the time, Mr. Speaker, is that correct?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Mississippi [Mr. TAYLOR].

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi. I thank the gentleman from Hawaii for his courtesy.

Mr. Speaker, I would just like to point out to my friend from Georgia, and I do consider him my friend, that what the coalition and what I hope every Member of this body is asking for is honesty in budgeting.

I did some checking yesterday from the Congressional Budget Office, and even the Republican budget for 1996 would run up a \$296 billion annual operating deficit; \$118 billion of that would be taken from trust funds.

I have continually heard that bill being referred to on the floor of the House of Representatives as the Balanced Budget Act of 1995. Sir, that is not a balanced budget. I think the gen-

tleman knows that, and I know that, I think the people of America ought to know that.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Reclaiming my time, Mr. Speaker, following up on Mr. TAYLOR's comment, as you know, yesterday I started what I said would be a series of discussions as to what constitutes a balanced budget in the context of the Speaker's admonition to us that we use honest numbers.

I invited the Speaker to come down and discuss that if he wants. He is not here today. I do not know whether he will be here tomorrow. I am going to be here right through the 15th. He may be in negotiations right now, I do not know, about this so-called balanced budget. But every time we see on television or hear on radio or read in the newspaper the Speaker talking about a balanced budget in 7 years and using honest numbers, I submit to you and I submit to him and would be very happy to have a discourse with him that this is illusionary. This is entirely illusory in nature. These numbers do not reflect an honest balanced budget.

As the gentleman from Mississippi [Mr. TAYLOR] indicated, every single budget proposed from the years 1996 through 2002 has a massive deficit attached to it in the Republican plan. Every single one of those budgets is going into the Social Security trust fund. It is stated right in the budget documents of the Republican proposals, and I do not object at any time to someone coming forward with the idea of saying let us get to a balanced budget as I indicated yesterday.

In time to come, I will come on this floor and propose the kind of alternatives that some of us are putting together and are willing to get behind that which will achieve that in an honest way. This is dishonest in the sense that you are putting forward, or we are having put forward to us by the majority the idea that somehow they have exclusive claim to a balanced budget.

I will indicate that this year alone, and I may be off \$1 or \$2 billion, a couple of billion dollars depending on what the final figures come out to be, but the proposal is that they take \$63 billion from a so-called surplus in the Social Security system.

Mr. KINGSTON. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. I will yield briefly because I have got a long way to go and you folks are on the floor every single day with this line and you have hundreds of people saying the same things, and we are just a couple of us here right now. But I will yield for the moment.

Mr. KINGSTON. I would say this to my friend from Hawaii whom I know to be a learned and honest gentleman. This is an 18-inch ruler, and what is unbelievable to me that over here 18 inches may be different, if we were talking money on the other side of the aisle, and I agree with what you and the gentleman from Mississippi [Mr. TAYLOR] and the gentlewoman from

Texas [Ms. JACKSON-LEE] are saying, let us use the same ruler when we debate this so that balance really is balance. No deficit really means no deficit.

So I would say to you in the spirit of let us get to the bottom of it, I am with you 100 percent on what your assertion is. I appreciate the gentleman yielding.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. To enter into a dialog with you on this, then, is it your position that the budget as put forward by the majority at the present time is not going to balance the budget if at the end of 2002 we have almost \$1 trillion owing to the Social Security trust fund?

Mr. KINGSTON. If we are making by a ruler that is the same ruler that we measure all plans on and that is the case, then we need to look at it.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. If you could be so kind, would you try and answer my question. Is it the Republican budget position that in the year 2002 when you have ostensibly balanced the budget that you will owe the Social Security trust fund \$636 billion plus interest, approximately \$1 trillion will be owing to the trust fund?

Mr. KINGSTON. Let me say this. Last night was the first night that I listened to what you are saying and it raised something that I want to go back and do my homework on. But I can assure you that I would be happy to answer that question afterwards and continue a dialog in an honest manner.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Reclaiming my time, Mr. Speaker, do I have time?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Ten seconds.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. I very much appreciate the honesty of the gentleman from Georgia. I will indicate to him and to the rest of the House that if they go back and do their homework as he suggests, they will find that in the year 2002 we will owe almost \$1 trillion to the Social Security trust fund, and in the time to come, Mr. Speaker, over the next couple of weeks I am sure we can explore this issue at greater depth. I thank the Speaker very much and the gentleman from Georgia.

BOSNIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. SCARBOROUGH] is recognized for 5 minutes.

BALANCING THE BUDGET

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Mr. Speaker, just to follow up briefly, I was going to be talking on Bosnia but to follow up briefly on what the gentleman said before, anybody that comes up with a plan that does more to balance the budget than what the Republican plan has done this year is fine with me. But I am hearing conflicting signals.

The first thing I am hearing is that the Republican budget does not go far enough to balance the budget. And then we turn around the next day and

hear how savagely the Republican budget cuts everything. The fact of the matter is that is a falsehood.

Student aid goes up 49 percent under the Republican plan, goes from \$24 billion to \$36 billion. But now we are hearing a new line. Now the line is that the Republican budget does not go far enough. If the gentleman from Hawaii would like to get into the debate and figure out a way to balance the budget plus handle it, \$1 trillion dollars, 7 years from now, if you say we are \$1 trillion short, I welcome him. Again I want to talk about Bosnia. But I will just say this with a footnote.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Will the gentleman kindly yield a moment.

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Let me just finish this. Any plan you come up with if it goes even further than the Republican plan in making the savings that we are doing is going to have to add about \$750 billion to what your President and your party is willing to do.

I yield to the gentleman before going into Bosnia.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. That is very kind because I will focus on Bosnia. I realize what you are saying. Obviously if this moves forward we have to find more money to deal it. That is one of the problems with Bosnia.

My point is that there are alternatives. I will not take the gentleman's time tonight. It includes capital budgeting, and I do not consider it Republican or Democrat in that context. I am considering it in the context of America, the way the rest of American Government and business and families run their budgeting.

We separate capital budgeting from operating expenses and I think we can get to a balanced budget. We do not have to put a timetable right now but I would be happy to discuss with the gentleman and my good friend from Georgia ways that we can deal with honest numbers. I appreciate the gentleman yielding.

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the comments of the gentleman from Hawaii. Certainly it has nothing to do with the Republican or Democratic Party. It has to do with being honest with budget figures. Obviously the Republicans in the early 1980's engaged in rosy scenarios just as Democrats have in the past.

But moving on to Bosnia, I know the gentleman from Hawaii certainly has some opinions on this which I look forward to hearing, also, I have just got to tell you. I hear so many people calling my offices, and I have answered a lot of the calls myself, and I have talked to other Members across the country.

The fact of the matter is, and I do not care what a CNN poll says, the overwhelming number of Americans today do not want United States men and women to put their lives on the line for a 500- or 600-year-old civil war in Bosnia. The fact of the matter is that we as a country appear to have learned a lot from the mistakes we made in Vietnam.

In fact, the Pentagon put forward a doctrine that would prevent us from getting involved in future conflicts that would lead into Vietnam-style quagmires. It was called the Weinberger doctrine. It came out in the mid 1980's, and it seemed to make a lot of sense. The first requirement was that before the President sent one young American to die in a war across the sea, he clearly stated a vital American interest that was at stake.

I have sat on the Committee on National Security for the past few months. I have heard testimony from the Secretary of Defense, Secretary of State, General Shalikashvili, and they have failed to come forward, and not them personally. They are representatives of the administration. The administration has failed to set forth a clear, vital American interest that is worth the spilling of blood of young American men and women to end a civil war that has been going on for 500 or 600 years, to end a civil war that is much more complex than even the conflict we got involved with with Somalia.

Remember the need to go to Somalia because it was the right thing to do? We had to stop the hunger, we had to stop the clans from fighting each other.

The fact of the matter is, we went to Somalia, we spent \$3 billion, it cost us over 20 American lives, and today the warlords continue to fight each other. We did not make a difference in Somalia, and Somalia is nothing compared with what we go to when we start talking about sending troops to Bosnia. It makes absolutely no sense.

The President spoke a few nights ago and tried to define a vital interest, but unfortunately his vital interest had to do with securing a Bosnian peace treaty. The fact of the matter is that right now that Serbs in Sarajevo said they will fight to the death. I have got to tell my colleagues, until we clearly define a vital American interest that is worth the death of Americans, I respectfully have to reject the President's reasoning to send young Americans to Bosnia to die.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Ms. PELOSI] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. PELOSI addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

BALANCED BUDGET DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Connecticut [Ms. DELAURO] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, Members on both sides of the aisle feel very passionately about their positions in the budget debate, and we should feel passionately about this issue because in fact what we are debating is the future of our country. The debate is

about far more than numbers. It really, in essence, is about the values and the priorities of the American people.

Democrats are concerned about the level of cuts that this budget makes in Medicare, in education, and in environmental protection. We believe that the cuts that are currently there, the cuts in this budget, go too far and too fast and will hurt too many people.

We are also very concerned about the tax package that is contained in this budget. Because of that tax package, we think that it is wrong to impose higher taxes on those who can least afford it while lowering the taxes on those who can in fact most afford it. That seems to have the priorities of this Nation out of whack.

We are not alone in thinking that the budget has its priorities upside down. If you take a look at what the American people are talking about, and there are recent surveys that have discussed this issue, the surveys indicate that 60 percent of the public today would like to see the President veto this budget as it currently stands.

I think that there are a number of us here who concur that that is what the President should do if Republicans refuse to lessen the blow on our seniors, our students, and on our environment.

Congress should not force its priorities on the American people. It is time to start to listen to them, to compromise on a balanced budget that protects the priorities of the American people. No one disagrees about getting our fiscal house in order, about achieving a balanced budget. There is a right way to do it and a wrong way to do it.

What we want to try to do is to protect those principles and those priorities that the American public has asked us, in fact, to protect. That means protecting educational opportunity, environmental protections, and it means protecting Medicare.

As it currently stands, the Republican budget, and this number has not budged in all these months, cuts \$270 billion from Medicare to help to finance a tax cut for the wealthiest Americans. Over 50 percent of the tax cuts go to the richest 1 or 2 percent of the people in this country.

□ 1400

The cuts go too far too fast and will devastate a health care system that is serving 37 million seniors.

It is not only the seniors who are going to be hurt, and it is not just Democrats who are warning about the impact of the deep and the dangerous Medicare cuts. The most recent issue of Money magazine, there is an article. It tells families, actually, in the article, to hold on to their wallets because health care costs are going to go up if this budget passes. In fact, because of the cuts in Medicare payments to hospitals under this plan, administrators say that they will have to raise health care costs for the rest of the population in order to have to make up the difference.