

Now, this march was to demonstrate their commitment to instilling values in America's children and to focus the Nation's attention on the need to raise moral children in this country.

Mr. Speaker, how can Bill Clinton and his liberal buddies preach about morality to our children and then turn around and deliberately mislead the American people about the White House's search of the FBI files? This hypocrisy must stop, Mr. Speaker.

The White House had FBI files for possible political use stored in one of their security vaults. Mr. Speaker, I ask, does this sound like an innocent bureaucratic mistake as the White House says? Oh, of course out.

Mr. Speaker, if Bill Clinton wants to instill honesty in our children, should be not first look at the mirror and look at himself?

HOUSE REPUBLICANS DIVIDED ON THE BUDGET

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

Mr. WARD. Mr. Speaker, the secret is out. This may not be England, but there is dissension in the family, and the Queen is not happy. The House Republicans are divided, and the gentleman from Texas [Mr. ARMEY] cannot as easily as usual whip them into shape. Yesterday the vote on the final passage of the 1997 fiscal year budget was yanked, taken off the floor, because the Republican freshmen and the more conservative members of the majority party were not in line.

It seems that the budget deficit will increase over the next 2 years under Speaker GINGRICH's plan, not decrease. As my colleague, the gentleman from Texas [Mr. BARTON], so appropriately said, we are backing away from what they started out to do in this Congress, something that may not be too smart in an election year: To try and cut the deficit. However, the crown jewel of the tax cut for the wealthy may be threatened.

So let us see where the gentleman from Texas, Mr. ARMEY's, priorities are and those of his royal family.

REPUBLICANS BALANCE THE BUDGET FOR OUR CHILDREN'S FUTURE

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

Mr. RIGGS. Mr. Speaker, to listen to the rhetoric from some of my good Democratic friends and colleagues this morning, one would think that they were prepared to vote for less spending and lower deficits, when nothing could be further from the truth. We are going to get a budget agreement, and let me tell my colleagues why. The budget agreement that we have reached between House and Senate Republicans achieves a \$5 billion Federal budget

surplus in the year 2002. It calls for reforming Medicaid and welfare, saving Medicare from bankruptcy and providing middle-class families much needed tax relief. It reforms Medicaid and welfare by giving more power and more revenue to the States in line with the recommendations, the bipartisan recommendations, of the Nation's Governors. It preserves and protects Medicare for our Nation's elderly, a goal which is even more important because of the report last week from the Medicare trustees which says Medicare is going broke earlier than expected; in fact, their worst-case scenario is that Medicare could be broke in 1999, just 3 years from now. And it calls for permanent tax relief for American families through a \$500-per-child tax credit that is \$1,000 for a family of four.

Mr. Speaker, it is a good budget, and it balances the budget for the sake of our children's future.

REPUBLICAN BUDGET BAD FOR SENIORS AND FOR THE DEFICIT

(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, the House was scheduled to vote on the 1997 budget yesterday but the vote was delayed at the last minute. It seems that the Republican budget, by their own admission, actually increases the Federal deficit.

And freshman Republicans, many of whom campaigned back home for a balanced budget and many of whom voted for the balanced budget amendment, balked at voting for a budget that is not balanced.

But today the Republican leadership has twisted enough arms and many of these same freshmen will support a budget that does exactly what they promised they would not do when they came to Washington: increase the deficit. What hypocrisy.

And yet these same Republicans want the American people to trust them when they say their budget does not cut the Medicare program by \$168 billion over a 6-year period to pay for tax breaks for the wealthy. Do not be fooled. This budget is bad for seniors and bad for the deficit.

REPUBLICANS SHOULD SUPPORT THE CONTRACT CALLED MEDICARE

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

Mr. HILLIARD. Mr. Speaker, the Republicans are not cooperating or attempting to work out a compromise to protect Medicare for seniors. I hope all voters remember these facts in November. The Republicans have repeatedly voted for deep cuts in the Medicare Program which will affect the quality of service which our seniors depend on to stay healthy and, in fact, to stay alive.

The Republicans in Congress seem to be big supporters of contracts. If this is true, then they should stand by the contract which America has made with our senior citizens. This contract is called Medicare. The Republicans should support Medicare, should defend Medicare, but the Republicans should not cut Medicare.

WE NEED TO PASS A RESPONSIBLE BUDGET

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

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, it is interesting that the people who are complaining about cuts to Medicare are offering no program to save it. The President's own trustees on the Medicare trust fund said it will go bankrupt a year ago by the year 2002, and I will say it will be bankrupt in 5 years, and no program from this side is trying to protect it.

This budget we are about to vote on is going to give us a \$5 billion surplus in the year 2002 to begin the downpayment on our grandchildren's debt, an immoral debt, I might add, that we left them after 30 years voting ourselves wonderful government programs and just choosing not to pay for them. This budget is going to preserve and protect Medicare for our Nation's elderly for many years, but not enough yet until the baby-boomers come, and we are going to have to still deal with that. It is also going to give some tax relief for families with children up to \$100,000 in income \$500-per-child tax credit. These are for middle-class American families. All this baloney about the wealthy, but there are not capital gains cuts in this budget. These are for middle-class families, \$500 per child tax relief.

It is time to pass a responsible budget that comes to balance.

BATTLE OVER BUDGET

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

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, why is the row of Republicans there so empty in giving speeches this morning? They are all busy fighting with each other over the budget. They do not have time to put together a coherent program. And the reason is simple: The Republican Party has drifted over to the extreme. Bob Dole is a voice of moderation, I guess, with TRENT LOTT taking over the Senate, and then the extremists will even be given a greater hand. So look at the budget they cannot even get the extremists to pass on: fewer toxic waste cleanups, welfare reform that cuts—

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, I have a point of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAZIO of New York). The gentleman will state his point of order.

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, is it appropriate to deal specifically with Members of the other body by name in making or casting aspersions on the motives?

Mr. VOLKMER. He is not a Member of the other body.

Mr. LINDER. TRENT LOTT is.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members should not so refer to specific Members of the other body by name. The gentleman will proceed in order.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, I will strike the name and say the junior senator from Mississippi. Everyone knows it is the same person.

□ 1030

Everyone knows it is the same person. What I would say is, very simply, if we look at this budget with regard to toxic waste cleanups, welfare reform, weak on work but tough on kids, bigger deficits, not smaller, raising the deficit, limiting direct student loans, tax increases on working families, limiting guarantees for health care for low-income women and children and seniors in nursing homes, hundreds of rural hospitals cut, doctors to overcharge seniors for Medicare, and the list goes on and on, it is an extreme budget. It is a wrong budget. We will defeat it.

ONLY WAY TO BALANCED BUDGET IS DECREASED FEDERAL SPENDING

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

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, it is the same old story, same old line. We have heard about cuts, cuts, cuts, for so long. Only in this town does an increase in spending come to a cut.

Never before in the history of Webster's Dictionary has the term "cut" been defined as an increase. The Republican plan, a budget to protect and preserve Medicare, provides for an increase in spending. I challenge any one of my colleagues to stand up and say that is not true. If they do, they are entitled to the \$1 million that we promised a year ago. But they will not do that.

Mr. Speaker, our budget that we are going to be talking about in the next couple of days does get to balance in the year 2002. Our budget has lower deficits than the President's budget in every single year. That is extremely important, because what that does is get it to balance. That is the only way we are going to get there is to decrease Federal spending.

MEDICARE TOO IMPORTANT TO BE TREATED LIKE AN UGLY STEPCHILD

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

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, tampering with Medicare not only impacts our seniors, it also affects our entire health care system. When we boast about having the greatest health care system in the world, it is due in no small measure to the research and financial infrastructure that Medicare provides.

For this reason, Mr. Speaker, any reductions in Medicare should be carefully considered and put back into the system, not used to pay for tax cuts and star wars.

Desperate, however, to provide tax breaks to their wealthy campaign contributors, Republican leaders have cooked up a plan to cut \$168 billion from Medicare, although only \$90 billion is needed to extend the Medicare trust fund. The GOP insists on cutting an extra \$78 billion that will eventually end up in the pockets of junk-bond dealers, corporate CEO's and insurance companies.

Mr. Speaker, Medicare is too important to be treated like an ugly stepchild by Uncle NEWT.

REPUBLICANS SHOULD WORK WITH DEMOCRATS TO PROTECT MEDICARE FOR AMERICA'S SENIOR CITIZENS

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

Mr. VOLKMER. Mr. Speaker, it is budget time again. Once again, I hear my extreme radical Republican colleagues, under the gentleman from Georgia, NEWT GINGRICH, and Bob Dole telling the American public they are going to save Medicare. How are they going to do that? They are going to do that by cutting it by \$168 billion, by forcing senior citizens to pay more for health care, by gutting rural health care, and by closing hospitals. This budget cuts funding for hospitals by 19 percent. How are my radical Republican colleagues going to save Medicare if they close hundreds of hospitals?

Mr. Speaker, according to the Missouri Hospital Association, this would not be a mere reduction in the rate of increase, but a dangerous and devastating cut in payment. Rather than receiving an increased level of payment for services that are more intensive and increasingly costly to deliver, hospitals will be paid less in each of the next 6 years than they are paid this year. Many of the rural hospitals in my district will be devastated by these cuts and forced to close their doors. How does this improve health care for American senior citizens?

REPUBLICAN CUTS IN MEDICARE AND MEDICAID AND TAX BREAKS INCREASE THE DEFICIT

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, it is the same old thing that we went through last year: Here comes the budget again, and the Republicans are slashing Medicare and Medicaid to pay for tax breaks for the wealthy. The amazing thing about it is that they are doing it this year and actually increasing the deficit. The deficit goes up from a current projection of \$130 billion for fiscal year 1996 to \$153 billion for fiscal year 1997, so not only are they trying to destroy the Medicare and Medicaid Program, they are also going against their alleged promise that they are going to reduce the deficit in order to do it.

Do Members know where this money is going? All these cuts are going into a giant slush fund. One of my colleagues said before, they are not using the Medicare and Medicaid money in order to pay for tax breaks. In fact, they are, because the cuts go into a slush fund. That slush fund will be used later during the budget process in order to provide those tax breaks for the wealthy. It is the same old story again. The Republicans do not care about the average person. They are just trying to help their rich friends.

SUPPORT URGED FOR RESOLUTION AGAINST CHURCH BURNINGS

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

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, it is time for this body to speak with the voice of reason. It is time for this body to speak with the voice of leadership. It is time for people of reason to speak out against the church bombings, and certainly this House should make it abundantly clear that it is unacceptable, in a Nation of civil liberties, that we would find a house of worship to be a target for arson. It is certainly unacceptable in this House that we would not speak out to say that civilized people do not find that places of worship, places of sacred faith, should be desecrated.

I urge my colleagues, all who are persons of reason, persons who respect faith, to sign my resolution condemning the violent acts and the burning of churches in the African-American communities, or churches of any races, churches of any faiths. Speak out against that. Be resolved in knowing what America is about.

PERMISSION FOR SUNDRY COMMITTEES AND THEIR SUBCOMMITTEES TO SIT TODAY DURING 5-MINUTE RULE

Mr. RIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the following committees and their subcommittees be permitted to sit today while the House is meeting in the Committee of the Whole House under the 5-minute rule: The Committee on Banking and Financial Services; the Committee on Commerce; the Committee on Economic