

Mr. Speaker, this is our Contract With America. We mean what we say. Watch what we do.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION NAMING NEW AIRCRAFT CARRIER AS THE U.S.S. "HARRY S TRUMAN"

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

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to name the Navy's new aircraft carrier the U.S.S. *Harry S Truman*.

On April 12, 1995, we will mark the 50th anniversary of the beginning of the Truman Presidency. I can think of no finer tribute to this great Missourian—the 33d President of the United States—than to name this ship in his honor.

Harry Truman became President at a critical point in our Nation's history. But he took charge of the office in a decisive manner, leading us through the end of World War II, the reconstruction of Europe, and our conversion to a peacetime economy.

While hard-working and decisive, his strength also lay in his commonplace, down-to-earth approach to life. He always spoke in plain, uncomplicated language, and accepted total responsibility for his actions. This was shown by that famous plaque he kept on his desk, stating: "The buck stops here."

We already have five carriers named for former Presidents. Naming a ship after Harry S Truman is long overdue, and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

BALANCING THE BUDGET

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

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the balanced budget amendment that will be voted on later this month. It is time for Congress to live with the same fiscal responsibility as hardworking Americans.

By enacting this important constitutional amendment, we would stop the irresponsible practice of increasing spending today while leaving the bill for future generations. Once the amendment took effect, Congress will finally have the discipline to make long-overdue reforms in Federal programs and finally set fiscal priorities.

Further, a balanced budget amendment would strengthen the economy by making it harder to increase Federal spending. The amendment prohibits Government borrowing as a means of financing Government spending. By leaving more resources in the private sector, the amendment will create new jobs and raise the standard of living for Americans.

The American outcry for a balanced budget and fiscal responsibility in Washington must not be delayed.

OPENNESS AND HONESTY SOUGHT IN DISCUSSING BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT

(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 Republicans promised the most open Congress in history, but when it comes to being honest about issues that mean the most to the American people, they would rather keep us all in the dark.

Yesterday, the new majority leader refused to disclose the details of one of the centerpieces of the Contract With America—the balanced budget amendment. When asked why he would not tell the American people what the balanced budget amendment included, the majority leader said that he feared that the amendment would be defeated if the details were spelled out for the American people.

The American people have a right to know exactly how we would balance the budget. They have a right to know if Republicans are planning on putting Medicare and Social Security on the chopping block.

Democrats are offering the "Honest Budget Bill," which will require sponsors of a balanced budget proposal to present a line by line account of how they would achieve a balanced budget. It is a bill which meets the standards of accountability, honesty, and openness that the American people have demanded. Standards that my Republican colleagues have failed to meet, thus far.

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LIVING WITHIN OUR MEANS

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

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. President, what do we have to fear by balancing the budget? Why should we be afraid of making Government operate like every other American? Why are we scared of the phrase "living within our means?"

The naysayers are trying to scare Americans into believing that to balance the budget we have to cut critical programs like Social Security, Medicare, and taking care of the poor and elderly.

We have an opportunity today on this floor to vote on a balanced budget amendment. In the State of Florida, as a State senator and a State house member, we voted to balance a budget each and every year, and our State worked perfectly. The needs of our society were met. But, more importantly, the people of the State of Florida felt confidence in their government.

We can control the rate of growth. We can control how our Government

functions. But we in the Congress must prove to the American public that we have the resolve.

My grandmother died at the age of 88 with \$10,000 in her bank account. She depended on Social Security. She looked forward to it. I will not destroy Social Security. In her name, I will preserve it.

BE OPEN WITH REGARD TO BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT

(Mrs. MINK of Hawaii asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, on January 19 the House will be considering the balanced budget amendment, which is a constitutional amendment and requires a two-thirds vote. The House has considered this amendment previously and as a member of the majority party then, although it could have passed at that time, we were not concerned about the details, because we felt as members of the majority it was our responsibility in committees to decide where these cuts would have to be made.

Now the story is quite different. We have a majority party, Republicans, who are not only committed to the passage of the amendment but also are in control of the appropriations process and all of the committees, and they are not telling the American people or the Congress what kinds of cuts are going to have to come down the stream in order to make this \$1 trillion cut which the Congressional Budget Office has now said will have to be made if we are to truly balance the budget in the year 2002.

It is time for the majority party to tell the American people; are we going to have cuts in Social Security, are we going to have put caps on Medicare, is there going to have to be a cut in the education budget, food stamps, school lunch, and a whole series of others? Let us really have open Government.

SWEARING IN OF THE HONORABLE J.C. WATTS

The SPEAKER. Will the Honorable J.C. WATTS of Oklahoma kindly step forward and take the oath of office.

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma appeared at the bar of the House and took the following oath of office:

Do you solemnly swear that you will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that you will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that you take this obligation freely; without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion, and that you will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which you are about to enter. So help you God.

The SPEAKER. Congratulations. The gentleman from Oklahoma is a Member of the U.S. House of Representatives.