

that she made each one of us better, and because of her our community and our country have been immeasurably bettered as well.

THE HONEST BUDGET
RESOLUTION

HON. RICHARD A. GEPHARDT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 11, 1995

Mr. GEPHARDT. Mr. Speaker, while the Republicans advance their "Contract With America," Democrats will stay true to the oldest contract we have in this country: to disavow Government by gimmickry, and to govern in an open, honest, responsible way. Rather than rewriting the Constitution in a flash of ideological ink, it's time to live up to the principles of the Constitution itself.

So I am introducing House Resolution 33, the Honest Budget Resolution, and I am delighted that both the President and Senate Democratic leader TOM DASCHLE are joining me in supporting its passage. It says simply that before a balanced budget constitutional amendment can be sent to the States for debate, Congress must pass a plan to show exactly how we would balance the budget. Our States have a right to know. The people deserve a real plan of action—not just a bill of goods.

Democrats support balancing the budget as long as it's done honestly and responsibly. That's why we passed the largest deficit reduction package in history, without a single Republican vote. It was a \$500 billion down payment toward getting our fiscal house in order.

Republicans talk a good game about cutting the deficit, but actions speak louder than words. For years, they claimed that if they were in power, they could balance the budget. Now that they have the gavel, they're discovering what Democrats already knew, balancing the budget means tough choices. And the American people have a right to know what those choices will be.

After all, at the dawn of the 1980's, Republicans claimed they could give huge tax breaks to the wealthy, enact massive defense increases, and balance the Federal budget at the same time. The rhetoric didn't come close to the reality. Trickle down economics raised taxes on the middle class, exploded the deficit, and devastated our economy.

Today, that same fool's gold glimmers in the Republicans' eyes. More tax breaks for the wealthy; a tougher tax burden on hard-working, middle-class families. More space invaders defense systems; less support for crucial needs here at home. Reaganomics was a catastrophe in 1981, and it won't work in 1995.

When the Republicans bring their balanced budget amendment before the House, they must expect more from Democrats than blind faith without real proof. Democrats will demand that they give us facts, not fiction. Seniors have a right to know if Social Security or Medicare will be on the chopping block. Veterans have a right to know if their pensions will be slashed. Parents have a right to know if school funding or college loans will evaporate. Farmers have a right to know if Government will abandon its mission to help them feed our Nation.

It's time for the Republicans to put their money where their mouth is. The honest budget bill will force them to do that, once and for all.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MEDICARE
SELECT EXPANSION ACT OF 1995

HON. NANCY L. JOHNSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 11, 1995

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a proposal to expand and make permanent the Medicare Select Program. My colleague, Senator CHAFEE will be introducing an identical proposal in the Senate today as well.

The Medicare Select Program is currently a demonstration project that operates in only 15 States. It provides America's senior citizens with a Medigap managed care option. The program has been extremely successful. There are currently over 450,000 individuals enrolled in Medicare select policies. These individuals are enjoying premium savings over traditional fee-for-service Medigap policies that range from 10 to 37 percent. In real world terms, these reduced premiums translate into savings of up to \$25 a month or \$300 a year. This is obviously a significant savings for individuals on fixed incomes.

In addition, these policies are proving to be among the highest quality products available in the Medigap market today. In August 1994, Consumer Reports rated the top Medigap insurers nationwide. Eight of the top rated products were Medicare select plans. To date, there have been no reported abuses or problems with the Medicare Select Program.

This program also enjoys broad bipartisan support. Last year, 239 members cosponsored legislation to extend the program. In addition, the National Governors Association, the National Association of Insurance Commissioners, National Conference of State Legislatures, Families USA, and the National Committee to Preserve Social Security, and Medicare support expanding and making this program permanent.

The savings and benefits associated with the Medicare Select Program should be available to all of America's senior citizens. By expanding the program and making it permanent, Medicare select products will become much more broadly available and hundreds of thousands of seniors will, for the first time, be able to recognize the savings current participants in the program enjoy.

Mr. Speaker, Medicare select is now set to expire at the end of June. If this Congress does not move quickly to enact this legislation, America's senior citizens will lose access to one of the most successful programs in recent history. I strongly encourage my colleagues to cosponsor this legislation and look forward to providing seniors continued access to this very important program.

175TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF MAUMEE

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 11, 1995

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to rise today in honor of the 175th anniversary of the First Presbyterian Church located in Ohio's 9th district.

Beginning on January 9, 1820, with the settlement of 11 pioneers as charter members, the contributions of the First Presbyterian Church have stretched through a rich and diverse history. Built on a site that was once used to house a British battery, the founders of Maumee, Ohio's First Presbyterian Church began a mission to provide spiritual guidance and sustenance that continues today.

Like all churches, First Presbyterian's greatest asset and resource is her congregation. Even as Maumee's prosperity began to shift to the neighboring city of Toledo and membership was declining rapidly, the church members continued their mission. In 1870, when it became impossible to meet the pastor's salary of \$900 and he was subsequently transferred to a larger parish, First Presbyterian's congregation pulled together and raised the resources necessary to maintain and continue the church's ministry.

As everyone in this historic Chamber knows, America's greatest strength is her communities and their willingness to contribute in times of national need and emergency. In keeping with this tradition and beginning with the Civil War, and continuing with World War I, World War II, the Korean conflict and Vietnam, the church made innumerable and immeasurable contributions from her congregation and her ministry. Now, this proud history and tradition has become the wellspring of the church's continuing efforts to respond to today's challenges with a new era of service and devotion.

As the congregation of the First Presbyterian Church of Maumee begins to respond to new challenges and create tomorrow's history, let us remember the contributions of its first 175 years—and congratulate them on their willingness to serve their community, their country, and their fellow man.

SALUTE TO FRANCIS SORRENTINO

HON. THOMAS M. FOGLIETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 11, 1995

Mr. FOGLIETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to one of my constituents, Mr. Francis "Frank" Sorrentino, who is retiring from the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDot) after 34 years of distinguished and dedicated service.

Mr. Sorrentino, who received both his BSCE and MSCE from Drexel University in Philadelphia, has served for the past 5 years as the assistant district engineer for services in engineering district 6-0. The services unit has provided support activities for all of the PennDot design, construction and maintenance activities in the district 6-0 jurisdiction of bucks,

Chester, Delaware, Montgomery and Philadelphia Counties.

Mr. Sorrentino has led a staff of 95 engineering technical and clerical personnel responsible for the right-of-way acquisition, utility relocation, geotechnical, survey, traffic and municipal service functions of PennDot District 6-0.

Throughout his long career with PennDot, Mr. Sorrentino has shown leadership and dedication as a structural designer in the highway design unit, as chief project manager in the Philadelphia interstate office, as district soils engineer, and as administrator of the project management unit. He has also played a key role in the design, community coordination, and implementation of such major area highways as I-95, I-76 rehabilitation, I-476 and I-676.

Mr. Sorrentino will retire from service to PennDot on January 13 to enjoy more time with his wife Martha and three sons: Frank Jr., David, and Brian. I applaud and thank him for his commitment to the Pennsylvania transportation system.

Further, I commend him for his ability, dedication and pursuit of excellence in public service upon his retirement.

TRIBUTE TO DET. LT. DANIEL
PATERSON III OF THE FERN-
DALE POLICE DEPARTMENT

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 11, 1995

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the distinguished service of Det. Lt. Daniel Paterson III of the Ferndale Police Department.

Lieutenant Paterson has devoted over 29 years of service to the people of Ferndale. These 29 years of service have been marked by numerous promotions, and 13 different awards and commendations. For the past 8 years he has directed the detective bureau of the department.

Mr. Speaker, I can attest to the excellence of the Ferndale Police Department, and I am certain Lieutenant Paterson played a role in making it so.

I am privileged to join his family, friends, and colleagues in thanking him for 29 years of service and wish him a restful and rewarding retirement.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 448

HON. JAMES A. TRAFICANT, JR.

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 11, 1995

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, arachnoiditis easily qualifies as a disease of the nineties. It has been described as "the greatest enigma in the field of spinal surgery" with few surgeons ever having seen it, and even fewer knowing how to treat it. In simple terms, arachnoiditis means inflammation of the arachnoid, and is characterized by chronic inflammation and thickening of the arachnoid matter, the middle of the three membranes that cover and protect the brain and spinal cord.

Arachnoiditis may develop up to several years after an episode of meningitis or subarachnoid hemorrhage—bleeding beneath the arachnoid. It may be a feature in diseases and disorders such as syphilis or it may result from trauma during a diagnostic procedure known as a myelogram. According to the Arachnoiditis Information and Support Network, more than 600,000 myelograms are performed in this country every year. Of the 12 million Americans who suffer from arachnoiditis, the cases resulting from myelograms could have been avoided.

In a myelogram, a radiopaque dye is injected into the spinal subarachnoid space. After the x-ray examination, as much of the oil as possible is withdrawn; however, a small amount is left behind and is slowly absorbed. Studies have implicated the iodized oil contrast medium, Pantopaque, in arachnoiditis. Water-soluble dyes such as Amipaque, Omipaque, and Isovue were once thought to be safer for use; however, recent evidence proves they also cause arachnoiditis. In fact, Harry Feffer, professor of orthopedic surgery at George Washington University states that patients who have had two or more myelograms stand a 50 percent chance of developing arachnoiditis. Numerous studies on animals have confirmed these findings.

Symptoms of arachnoiditis include chronic severe pain and a burning sensation which may attack the back, groin, leg, knee, or foot and can result in loss of movement to almost total disability. Other symptoms include bladder, bowel, thyroid, and sexual dysfunction, as well as headaches, epileptic seizures, blindness, and progressive spastic paralysis affecting the legs and arms.

In the past few years, arachnoiditis sufferers and Members of Congress alike have repeatedly asked the FDA to recall the use of Pantopaque. The FDA has clearly not reviewed the safety of oil-based Pantopaque as well as water-based dyes, in spite of medical evidence. As a result, I have introduced H.R. 448, a bill to ban myelograms involving the use of Pantopaque, Amipaque, Omipaque, or Isovue.

This legislation is not a new idea. Since 1990, Britain and Sweden have banned the use of Pantopaque in myelograms. In fact, a class action suit is still pending in Britain consisting of 25,000 people, 1,500 of which are nurses. In 1986, Kodak, the company that makes Pantopaque, voluntarily stopped distributing the drug in the United States due to public pressure. Pantopaque has a 5-year shelf life. The last batch was due to expire April 1, 1991. However, the use of Pantopaque has continued, with the most recent documented case in September 1993 and hospitals stocking the dye as recent as April 1994.

A large number of medical professionals do not know how to diagnose myelogram-related arachnoiditis, and when they do, they cannot treat it. Medical journals and case studies from around the world document the connection between radiopaque dyes and arachnoiditis. Despite this document, the medical profession as a whole has not been effectively enforced and still persists in its use. Moreover, the lack of information prevents the physician from recognizing the disease or side effects of the residual dyes after the fact. The time has come for thorough research to study this painful, disabling condition. H.R. 448 will direct the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and

Stroke to estimate the number of Americans suffering from myelogram-related arachnoiditis and determine the extent of this relationship.

Every year, chronic back pain is responsible for billions of dollars in lost revenues and millions more in health care costs. The American Journal reports that chronic low-back pain is estimated to cost \$16 billion annually in the United States. Occupational research finds that back injuries, pain and complications cost an average of \$15,000 per incident. According to "The Power of Pain," by Shirley Kraus, 100 million Americans are either permanently disabled or are less productive due to back pain. Those who do work lose about 5 work days per year, a productivity loss of \$55 billion. Interestingly enough, these figures only refer to chronic back pain patients. Almost all arachnoiditis sufferers eventually become totally disabled, becoming permanent fixtures on the rolls of Social Security, disability, welfare, and Medicaid.

Arachnoiditis sufferers want to become functioning, contributing members of society again. H.R. 448 will provide research for treatments for arachnoiditis sufferers, including treatments to manage pain. Pain-management treatments would enable sufferers to once again become active, working members of society.

It's time to protect unsuspecting Americans from this debilitating and preventable condition. I ask Members of Congress to join me by cosponsoring H.R. 448.

SERVICE AND COMMITMENT TO
EASTERN LONG ISLAND

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 11, 1995

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, Edward V. Ecker, Sr. of Montauk, Long Island, NY, a community in my congressional district, continues to live the classic American dream in his very full life, and so it is with pleasure that we honor him for his ongoing and outstanding service and commitment to the east end. Mr. Ecker's list of accomplishments and friends reads like a Who's Who: from his youth to the present.

Mr. Eckert, a graduate of Montauk School, went on to be a star athlete at East Hampton High School and later attended Syracuse University on a football scholarship. After a tour of duty with the Army in the Korean war, he came home and worked as a probation officer. His gregarious, loving nature has held him in good stead throughout the years as a very popular elected official and recognized political pro.

As an East Hampton town supervisor and town councilman, he was the youngest in New York State. In addition he was the commissioner of jurors and the deputy commissioner of Suffolk County parks.

When his lifelong friend, Perry B. Duryea, Jr. ran for the State Assembly in 1960 and was elected speaker in 1969—the last Republican speaker of that body—Eddie Ecker was a key strategist and top advisor.

Currently he is assistant deputy commissioner of the Suffolk County Board of Elections and is a Republican committeeman, having once been the Republican town leader.