

Mr. Speaker, my constituents sent me to Washington with a clear message: Balance the budget, reduce the size and scope of this place.

□ 1410

So those have become my goals, and I found the best way to accomplish these goals is to pass a balanced budget amendment.

So, Mr. Speaker, when the time comes this week, I hope all my colleagues will vote for the people's goals of a balanced budget amendment and return some common sense back to the people's House.

BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT WOULD BE A STRAITJACKET ON FUTURE GROWTH

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

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, all 50 States enact two budgets: one, an operating budget which pays for the day-to-day expenses; and, two, a capital improvements budget which pays for things like buildings, roads, airports, land acquisitions. The capital budget is paid for by borrowing, usually through the sale of bonds.

States function as families do. Families budget to pay for living expenses; but things like a home, car, or furniture, families must go into debt. Families assume such long-term debts in order to acquire these assets, the same as the Federal Governments.

The balanced budget amendment to the U.S. Constitution, if passed, would deny the Federal Government the power to borrow for the purpose of acquiring needed physical assets, such as military hardware, a space station, highways, and the like. A balanced budget amendment translates into zero deficit. This proposal is a straitjacket which will cripple the future of our country.

TALK ABOUT ISSUES, NOT JUST BOOK DEALS

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

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, after sitting here and listening to my Democrat colleagues on the floor last week and this morning, I think I have a good idea of what issues the President will bring up in the State of the Union Address tomorrow night: book deals.

Yes, it seems the only thing on Democrats' minds right now is book deals and other trivial distractions. Forget the important things in the world today, like a balanced budget amendment and passing the unfunded mandates legislation. Book deals are the only thing worth talking about if you are a Democrat.

So, it should be a short State of the Union Address, probably the shortest in history, because if the President acts anything like his fellow Demo-

crats on the Hill, he will not talk about the real issues, he too will try his hardest to change the subject and talk about book deals. I hope he talks about issues because that is what the American people want him to talk about.

THE 22D ANNIVERSARY OF ROE VERSUS WADE

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

Mr. WATT of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on this anniversary of the landmark Roe versus Wade decision I want to express my disgust at the recent outbreaks of violence at our Nation's family planning clinics. Roe versus Wade affirmed that the women in this country have a right to reproductive choice. This right to choose, like every other constitutional rights, must be vigilantly guarded regardless of one's individual beliefs.

The outbreaks of violence we have seen recently at family planning facilities are chilling reminders of the violence we saw surrounding polling places in the 1950's, 1960's, and 1970's, as African-Americans attempted to exercise their constitutional right to vote.

We must not allow any constitutional right to be abridged through campaigns of violent intimidation.

REPUBLICANS REMAIN COMMITTED TO CHANGING CONGRESS

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

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, over the weekend President Clinton said the Democrats and Republicans should be committed to tackling problems larger than our partisan squabbles. I agree. The new Congress should be committed to balancing the budget, ending crime, and reforming Government.

But the sad fact is the rhetoric on that side of the aisle and the actions that follow rarely line up. While Democrats may talk about putting aside partisanship, they seem obsessed by ghost historians, book deals and personal attacks.

Despite this partisan maneuvering, Republicans remain committed to the promises we made to the American people. We will stop forcing the States to pay for policies we implement and we will transform the culture of Washington by passing the balanced budget amendment.

It should be quite obvious to all that Republicans want to change this Congress and our friends on the other side of the aisle just wanted to change the subject.

UNFUNDED MANDATES AND THE CONTRACT WITH AMERICA

(Mr. RICHARDSON asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material.)

Mr. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, this morning I read a letter from Delilah Gonzales, a seventh-grader from New Mexico, asking me to protect her from water contamination. Can we assure Delilah that this legislation we are passing on unfunded mandates will protect her and many other children from water contamination?

In the haste to meet political deadlines, we must not take away safeguards to public health and environmental safety for all Americans.

Although like many I support cutting redtape and bureaucracies in State and local governments, I believe it must be done without harm to children and their families.

I do not want the American people to be faced with pollution in the air and disease-bearing organisms in public water systems because of legislation that was hastily passed in the Congress.

We have to protect the people, and Congress must make sure that they are safe in their own homes.

Mr. Speaker, my constituent, Delilah Gonzales, wants clean water to drink and clear streams in which to fish. Nothing we do in this body should be at the expense of her health.

The letter referred to follows:

JOHN ADAMS MIDDLE SCHOOL,
Albuquerque, NM, December 11, 1994.
Congressman RICHARDSON,
Washington, DC.

MR. RICHARDSON: My 7th grade class is studying water use, over-use and contamination. We would like to know what things you do in your personal life to help conserve and protect our nation's water supply.

Please send us a short note telling us what you do to save water.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

DELILAH GONZALES.

LET'S HELP OUT OUR STATES

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

Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, today the House continues debate on H.R. 5, a bill which will provide for the examination of past and future unfunded mandates and regulations, imposed on State and local governments, as well as the private sector.

This bill has the potential to be one of the greatest legislative relief bills for our State and local governments in recent memory. H.R. 5's mandate commission will review and make recommendations on modifying, terminating, or suspending current unfunded mandates.

The focal point of this issue is not how well-intentioned or constructive these unfunded mandates are—the real issue here is paying for these constructive ideas. It is a matter of fiscal responsibility and control.

Mr. Speaker, the Federal Government has created a sea of redtape and an ocean of mandates that are drowning our States and communities, and past attempts to break the tide simply have not worked.

The bill has broad, bipartisan support at all levels of government, and the private sector. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5, an oppose any amendments that would weaken the thrust of this legislation.

STENHOLM-SIMON BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT

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

Mr. MINGE. Mr. Speaker, 130 years ago, President Lincoln, in addressing a troubled nation, said, "The dogmas of the quiet past are inadequate for the stormy present. As our problems are new, we must think anew."

The unprecedented deficits that this government has incurred year after year in the last 1½ decades have created a national debt of staggering proportions. The balanced budget amendment is a new approach to the stormy financial burden afflicting this Nation. We have a firm, respected bipartisan balanced budget amendment which the Congress came close to passing 6 months ago. It is the Stenholm-Simon proposal. Let us act promptly to pass this bipartisan amendment in 1995.

CHILDREN AT RISK THROUGH INEQUITABLE DIVISION OF FEDERAL RESEARCH DOLLARS

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

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, last week, I returned to my district to attend a very sad funeral. Little Kelsey O'Neil was more than a neighbor girl; she was like a member of the family. She was the embodiment of the term "cute as a bug's ear." She died suddenly last Sunday night as the result of an acute asthma attack.

Not even an act of Congress can bring Kelsey back.

But, we can bring some equity to the division of research dollars that the Federal Government provides. Diseases that take our children must be a much higher priority. We can also loosen the regulations that the Food and Drug Administration [FDA] and other agencies impose on new treatments and technologies.

If we can prevent even a few future such sad events, then our efforts will be more than worth it.

Kelsey I will never forget you.

PROTECTING A WOMAN'S RIGHT TO CHOOSE

(Ms. FURSE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. FURSE. Mr. Speaker, I have just seen a shocking AP bulletin. It tells that three fine Oregon doctors have been targeted for harassment by antichoice groups who have created a deadly dozen list identifying 12 doctors, 3 of them from Oregon, to be the target of intense harassment. This is the kind of terrorism that leads to murder at abortion clinics.

□ 1420

This must be stopped. Abortion is legal, and it is a right that must be protected. Antiabortion groups that refuse to condemn acts of terrorism and murder are encouraging violence. This lawlessness is extremely frightening to me, and it should be to all of us.

In addition to the Federal laws we have protecting clinic entrances, I call upon my colleagues to support the resolution offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts [Mr. MEEHAN] requiring Federal law enforcement officials to act swiftly to protect clinics.

I support freedom of speech, but not harassment, not murder. Regardless of one's position on choice, we must stand against the escalating lawlessness at our clinics.

LISTEN CLOSELY TO CICERO

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

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, the idea that the budget should be balanced is not new; although judging from the gnashing of teeth and wringing of hands that we have heard from the other side of the aisle it is downright revolutionary; but in fact it is an idea that is older than the Founding Fathers. Listen closely to what the Roman statesman Cicero had to say on the subject in 63 B.C. It sounds like it was written today:

The budget should be balanced, the treasury should be refilled, public debt should be reduced. The arrogance of officialdom should be tempered and controlled, and the assistance to foreign lands should be curtailed, lest Rome become bankrupt.

I would say to my Democrat colleagues to pay special heed to Cicero's words concerning the arrogance of officialdom, as it was that, as much as anything else, that led to their party's decline and fall, and as for us Republicans, we must keep in mind that we are the agents of the people who sent us here, not their masters, and we must keep our promises to them to pass a balanced budget amendment, pass an unfunded mandates bill, and reduce the size and power of government.

WE NEED FULL DISCLOSURE OF CUTS IN THE REPUBLICAN BALANCED BUDGET

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

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, as my colleagues know, later this week the House will be voting on a Republican balanced budget amendment which does contain a three-fifths supermajority requirement but does not contain any listing of the cuts necessary to balance the budget. Members of Congress are being asked to buy a pig in a poke. The Congress and the American people need disclosure, and the Republicans have been unwilling, or unable, to list the cuts that will be required. Without the facts, the American people support the balanced budget amendment 4 to 1, until they learn that Social Security, Medicare, education, et cetera, may be cut. Then the amendment is opposed 2 to 1.

Mr. Speaker, if indeed our Republican colleagues do not intend to cut Social Security, why did they defeat the amendment to build a constitutional wall between Social Security and the rest of the budget? Why did they defeat the amendment to disclose a balanced budget blueprint before sending the balanced budget amendment to the States? It is clear that the American people need full disclosure of the cuts in the Republican balanced budget. They should not be handed a pig or a piglet in a poke.

DR. SEUSS ON THE BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT

(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, with apologies to Dr. Seuss I must confess that as a former elementary school-teacher I have tried my hand at trying to explain what is going on in Congress this week in language that even a child can understand:

They will not try a balanced budget, Sam I am. They will not try it with a mouse, they will not try in the House. They will not try a balanced budget, Sam I am.

But can we fund it on the States? Or we stop it and make them wait? If we can fund it on their backs, they will never find out what we lack.

But no, we can't fund it on the States, we can't stop it and make them wait. We must try the balanced budget, Sam I am.

A balanced budget is good you'll see. No mandates, no deficit is where we'll be.

You should try it, it's no slouch, you should try it with a mouse, and Mr. Speaker, I'd like to see it in this House. Sam, I am.

MR. GINGRICH'S PERSONAL ATTACKS ON FORMER SPEAKERS OF THE HOUSE

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

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, 3 days ago Speaker NEWT GINGRICH referred to former Speaker Jim Wright as, quote, a