

ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS

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

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, last night this Chamber was treated to quite a speech. At times it sounded as though the President had finally heard the message that the American people sent last November. Americans want smaller government and less taxes. In fact, there were times I was expecting the President to pull out his copy of the Contract With America and put his signature on it.

But, Mr. Speaker, actions speak louder than words. If the President is truly serious about reducing the burden and size of the Federal Government, I challenge him to join with the new Republican majority and help pass the balanced budget amendment. Only with a balanced budget amendment will Congress have the backbone and discipline to end the irresponsible and wasteful spending that has engaged this body in the last 2½ decades.

WE NEED TO GET OUR OWN HOUSE IN ORDER

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

Mrs. KENNELLY. Mr. Speaker, last night the President was gracious in his calls for bipartisanship whenever possible in doing the people's business. One area for such bipartisan approach is the areas he suggested for tax deductions for postsecondary education. This is in the best tradition of this country, because we know that the surest route to success is education.

However, before we can do the people's business, we have to get our own house in order. It does no one any good to have someone come to this floor and impugn the patriotism of the President of the United States. Freedom of speech is the basis of our Government. It is what every one of us stands for. But when someone unfairly attacks the President of the United States on this floor, we weaken our Government, we weaken each and every one of us on whatever side of the aisle. It should end, it is unacceptable, and it is wrong, and the people do not want it.

PASS THE BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT

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

Mr. BUNN. Mr. Speaker, today, the House of Representatives takes up the balanced budget amendment again. This House has repeatedly rejected the balanced budget amendment. In that time our Government has grown ever larger, our taxes continue to increase, and the crushing burden of debt has

reached the breaking point. Either this House will pass the balanced budget amendment, or we will continue to condemn future generations of Americans to a lifetime of penance for our mistakes.

Mr. Speaker, the American people have grown cynical about the ability of their Government to control spending, and why should they not? For decades we have raised taxes rather than making the tough decisions necessary to cut spending and balance the budget. Now we have one last chance to force the Government to live within its means. We must pass the balanced budget amendment and save our grandchildren from a debt they did not run up and they do not deserve.

PROTECT SOCIAL SECURITY IN BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT

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

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, while some Republicans talk about buckling knees, President Clinton's stance last night was bold and firm: Cut the deficit and balance the budget, but not on the backs of our senior citizens and children.

The Republicans' so-called balanced budget amendment requires \$1.2 trillion in cuts. But get this, they will not tell us how they are going to get there. We do know one thing for sure: Republicans will not exempt Social Security and Medicare. In fact, during a recent hearing on the balanced budget amendment in the Committee on the Judiciary, every Republican but one voted against an amendment to protect Social Security from the budget ax.

I understand that Speaker GINGRICH has said in an interview recently that Social Security is off the table. If this is so, then why are his Republican colleagues voting against such an amendment and why in the past has Speaker GINGRICH himself said that "everything is on the table"? Everything includes Social Security.

Mr. Speaker, the President's words rang very true last night when he said the elderly have made us what we are. And unlike the Republicans, the President's words were very clear and unequivocal when he said "My budget cuts a lot, but it protects education, veterans, Social Security, and Medicare."

Mr. Speaker, rather than just talk about balancing the budget, I challenge the Republicans to bring their real budget cleaver out from underneath the table.

DEMOCRATS ADJUSTING TO MINORITY STATUS

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

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I must say that the Democrats are adjusting

well to their new minority status. I thought it would take them at least several months to completely marginalize themselves in this Chamber, but they appear to have accomplished this in record time.

While Republicans have busied ourselves at making good on our promises to the American people to end unfunded mandates and pass a balanced budget amendment, the Democrats have put all of their energy into creating an atmosphere of cynicism and mistrust.

But the delay tactics of the Democrats will not prevent us from working the will of the American people. We Republicans will pass an unfunded mandates bill, and, we will pass a balanced budget amendment.

Someone once noted that cynicism is frustrated idealism. Last November, the Democrats witnessed the total repudiation of their ideals. Now, they have reduced themselves to a cynical display of class-envy and obstructionism.

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BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, last night President Clinton spoke of a covenant of rights and responsibilities between Government and the American people. Today we begin again the renewal of our responsibility to manage our Nation's money with common sense and discipline.

The issue of balancing the budget is not a conservative or liberal one, nor is it an easy one, but it is an essential one for us in this House, for the American people, and most assuredly, for future generations.

The 1980's saw an explosion of debt in Government, in business, and in personal finances. It threatened our economic health and strength. We dramatically addressed this crisis in 1993, and the debt is receding, but we must ensure that the competing demands for Federal resources do not erode our fiscal covenant of responsibility. That is why I believe it so important for us to adopt the Stenholm-Schaefer balanced budget amendment.

CONGRESS NEEDS A THREE-FIFTHS TAX LIMITATION ON THE BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT

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

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, the families in my home area, Suffolk County, must live within their means and spend only what they take in. They have to live on a balanced family budget, and in the seven towns and the villages and