

Mr. WARD. Mr. Speaker, I am a freshman. I voted for all of the reforms that we proposed, that were proposed on the 1st day of this session, especially the reform that required a three-fifths supermajority of this House to raise taxes. But now what do we see? We see the Republicans reverting to business as usual.

Since our income tax brackets are adjusted each year to reflect inflation, to keep people from being pushed into higher tax brackets simply due to that inflation, the arbitrary reduction in the Consumer Price Index by the Republicans will, in effect, increase taxes for millions of Americans. And it will do that without a three-fifths vote of this body, in direct violation of that rule that I supported.

I am deeply disappointed that we are seeing business as usual by the Republican majority.

□ 1030

#### HAVE THE CLINTON DEMOCRATS NO SHAME?

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

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, after watching the Clinton Democrats for the past few weeks, I have finally figured out what their strategy is. Since they have no solid ideas of their own, they have started on a fear campaign filled with illegitimate scare tactics designed to try to derail any legislation Republicans offer. Have they no shame.

First it was the children. The Clinton Democrats said school lunch programs were being cut, when in fact funding was increasing. Now they are saying children will suffer if we try to balance the budget. I say what kind of future will our children have if we do not balance the budget. Have they no shame!

Next it is the college students. Clinton Democrats are scaring college students by playing fast and loose with the facts about school loans, when in reality a balanced budget will bring down interest rates by at least 2 percent, ultimately saving students money. Have they no shame.

And finally, the Clinton Democrats, in their eagerness to score political points, are using their distorted fear tactics to scare senior citizens. Republicans are working to save Medicare—Republicans repealed Clinton's tax increase on seniors. Republicans are protecting Social Security. Have the Clinton Democrats no shame.

#### THE CONTRACT'S CROWN JEWEL—TAX CUTS FOR THE RICH, BROKEN PROMISES TO SENIORS

(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, today the bill comes due for the Republican's

tax giveaway to the privileged few, and the primary bill payers are senior citizens who will be hit with \$288 billion in cuts to Medicare.

The Speaker has called the Republican tax plan the crown jewel of the Contract With America.

It is a crown jewel all right—if you are a large corporation that may not have to pay any taxes at all—if you are a billionaire expatriate who gives up your citizenship to avoid paying taxes—if you are making more than \$350,000 and you are going to walk away with a \$20,000 tax break.

But if you are a senior citizen, get ready to pay up for that crown jewel. Your Medicare premiums and copayments are going up, and your benefits are being cut. Altogether the average senior should expect to pay \$1,060 more in out-of-pocket expenses by the year 2002.

Make no mistake about it, the Republican budget plan robs Medicare to pay for tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans. To keep their promise to the rich, the Republicans must break our most sacred promise to America's seniors.

#### REPUBLICAN BUDGET PUTS GOVERNMENT ON A DIET AND RESTORES THE AMERICAN DREAM

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

Mr. HOBSON. Mr. Speaker, the Federal Government has not run up a \$4.7 trillion debt because the American people pay too little taxes. The huge debt and deficits have exploded because the Federal Government is too big, spends too much of your money, and tells too many people what to do. It is big government, stupid!

Our balanced budget, for the first time in 25 years, solves this problem of oversized Government by reducing Government's size: It puts the bloated Federal Government on a diet. It eliminates the Federal deficit by trimming the size, power, intrusiveness, of the Federal Government.

Past attempts to reduce the deficit, like the Clinton tax increases, have failed because they have not addressed the deficit's root cause: oversized Government. Every dime they have collected in increased revenues has been spent on government gimmicks, spending schemes, and partisan pork. Every dollar saved in reductions in defense since 1985 has gone to feed the Government, not reduce the deficit.

Our balanced budget plan is different. Not only does our plan just say no to Clinton-style hikes. Our balanced budget actually includes tax relief for our families, small businesses, students, and seniors.

Our balanced budget finally solves the problem of too much Washington. It puts the Government on a diet, returns power to families, neighborhoods, and communities, and restores the

American dream. I urge all my colleagues to support this plan for the future of our children.

#### WHY ARE REPUBLICANS GOUGING MEDICARE TO PAY FOR TAX CUTS FOR THE PRIVILEGED FEW?

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

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, why are Republicans gouging Medicare to pay for tax breaks for the privileged few? Why do they cut almost \$300 billion in Medicare to senior citizens for tax breaks, of which only 1½ percent of those tax breaks go to families under \$20,000? Incidentally, 50 percent goes to families over \$100,000. Yet the Medicare cuts go to 100 percent of all senior citizens.

Why are Republicans cutting the student loan program to pay for tax breaks for the privileged few? Here are petitions signed by thousands of West Virginia high school and college students and parents asking Congress not to cut the student loan program, not to cut their future. We do not have to be Phi Beta Kappas to know that giving already wealthy Americans a tax break while denying students a chance just to be middle income simply is not fair.

Mr. Speaker, budgets reflect values. Slashing Medicare, cutting student loans, Americans want the budget balanced, but not on the backs of American values.

#### AMERICANS HAVE ENTERED A NEW ERA: THE AGE OF RESPONSIBILITY

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

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, I have discovered the difference between the Democrat and Republican Parties. The Democrat Party lives in constant fear that America is going to discover the truth. The Republican Party lives in constant fear that they will not.

The fact is, it is true that in 2 years, according to the Clinton budget, interest on the debt will exceed all defense spending. It is also true that in 7 years, according to Clinton's trust fund advisers, Medicare will be bankrupt and they will not be able to pay any bills for hospitals, any home health care.

Mr. Speaker, I think we have entered a new era. It is the age of responsibility. Americans are willing to take responsibility for their actions. They are asking us to take responsibility for our actions. It is true that we have put our children and grandchildren into 5 trillion dollars' worth of debt. The responsible thing is to try and pay that down and balance the budget. It is true that education is an abject failure. The responsible thing is to reform it, not to throw more money at it. It is true that Medicare must be reformed to be saved