the sacrifice that millions of Americans will be making in the coming years to balance the budget, to balance the budget so we can have a prosperous economy, but they chose that some would not have to enlist in that fight.

Mr. Speaker, I say to my colleagues, If you're very wealthy, you won't have to enlist in that fight. If you're a defense contractor, you won't have to enlist in that fight. If you're on the corporate welfare dole, you won't have to enlist in that fight. But if you're aged, or if you are a student seeking an education, or a child seeking nutrition, or a family seeking a safe, a safe and healthy, nursing home for your grandparents, or your parents, or your spouse, you have to enlist, and you have to pay, and you have to pay more because the Republicans chose that many of the well off in this country would have to pay less and not contribute at all.

THE REPUBLICANS ARE MAKING TOUGH DECISIONS WHILE BALANCING THE BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Colorado [Mr. MCINNIS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I cannot believe the gentleman from California [Mr. MILLER]. What? Are you putting your head in the sand and forgetting the deficit: This country is facing a deficit at a rate of $37 million an hour. I ask the gentleman from California go out and show me one of your constituent families out there that can overspend their budget at the same percentage rate or proportionate to their own budget as this Federal Government overspends its budget. When are you going to come to your senses, my colleagues? We got to get this budget in balance. If we do not, there is no greater threat to the future of this country. There is nothing greater that is going to break the backbones of the working people of this country than allowing this country to continue to spend, and spend, and spend, and spend.

You can divert all the attention you want to away from what I am saying, but the fact is, if you do not do something about this deficit, the people in this country are going to face a fiasco, a financial fiasco the likes of which we have not seen.

Now the gentleman talks about Medicare, how horrible that we do something about a Medicare. My colleagues, we better do something about Medicare. It is going to be bankrupt. It was this body that created Medicare. It is a good program, it was intended for good purposes, but, as many other Federal programs, it has gotten out of hand, the spending has gong crazy. The trustees, bipartisan by the way, Democrat and Republicans, some of the trustees appointed by President Clinton, have come to a mutual agreement, and that is if we do not do something with Medicare, if we do not reform Medicare, that system will be bankrupt, bankrupt by the year 2002.

Now sure it is easy to stand up here, and use lots of fancy charts, and quote this newspaper and that newspaper, but who is doing the hard work back here to stand up to government spending and say, ''Enough is enough; you can't spend more than you bring in''?

I stopped one time a rancher. He told me in Colorado; Meeker, CO; said to me, ''Scott, before you put any more water in the bucket you better plug the holes,'' and I venture to say to the gentleman from California that is exactly what this Republican bill does.

The Democrats have had an opportunity to bring this budget in balance for 25 years. They have refused to do it. We are not going to refuse to do it. Sure we are going to take heat from you, sure we are going to take cheap shots about this and that, and sure we have to make tough decisions, not necessarily between good and bad programs, but between good and good programs, but we are willing to make those decisions because, if we do not, you will not, and if you will not, this country faces a fiscal disaster.

Mr. Speaker, the people of this country deserve a government that can control its spending. The people of this country deserve a government that knows how to balance its checkbook. The senior citizens of this country deserve a Medicare Program that is not going to go bankrupt in 7 years.

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The people of this country can expect their Congress to act in a responsible, a fiscally responsible manner. I would urge all Members to set aside the partisan politics and take a look at the best interests of this country. The best interest of this country is that this country quit spending more than it brings in.

SPEAKING FOR THE POOR CHILDREN OF AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WELDON of Florida). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. DURBIN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. Speaker, I take the well this evening on behalf of a special interest group. This is not an ordinary special interest group. In fact, it is not a very effective one here in Washington. This special interest group does not have a Political Action Committee, they do not own a fax machine. In fact, they do not even vote. Yet, they are an interest group which is going to be affected by a bill which is on the floor of the House of Representatives tomorrow. I am speaking for them because, frankly, very few people this evening on the Republican side of the aisle want to acknowledge this group.

The special interest group I am speaking on behalf of are the poor children in America, the poor children in America who rely almost exclusively on a program known as Medicaid. It is a health care program for kids from lower income families. The Medicaid Program provides for immunizations for these children, health screening, examinations, and if they get very sick, it provides for their hospital care.

The Republican plan, which the gentleman from Colorado just described, is going to make a massive cut in this Medicaid Program. As a direct result of it, many of the poor children in America who are sick will not have health care, quality health care, available to them.

Yesterday morning I visited La Rabida hospital in Chicago. It is an amazing hospital. Eighty-five percent of the revenue to this hospital comes from this Medicaid Program. It is a beautiful hospital with wonderful people, doctors and nurses and administrators, and they took us on a tour and gave us a chance to meet some of the children; great kids, very sick children, but kids who, with their parents, are fighting a struggle every day to make it. They are fighting it, and the resources they use are the Medicaid Program.

I met Robert. Robert is a perfect kid, perfect except for diabetes. But if you meet him and you see his smile and his attitude, you think ''I want to give this kid a chance. I want Medicaid to be there to pay his hospital bill, so that he has a chance in life.'' Yet, the Republican side is suggesting that Robert and many like him are, frankly, casualties of this budget debate.

The gentleman from Colorado a few minutes ago was chiding us for saying the Democrats can never tell us where to cut spending. Let me give a couple of examples in his own Republican reconciliation bill where they can cut spending. First, let me go back to this chart. Do you not think at a time when we are cutting health care for Robert under Medicaid, that we ought to think twice about giving 64 percent of the wealthy families in America a tax break, a tax cut? These are the wealthiest families in this country, making over $150,000 a year, and the Republicans believe they need a tax cut. This is not new. The Republicans have traditionally believed that if you make the rich rich enough, it will help working families.

Democrats see it a little differently. We are worried about the fact that 86 percent of middle-income families are going to see a tax increase. If you want to come up with some money to pay for Robert and for other children under Medicaid, let me suggest to my Republican friends, take out the benefits for the fat cats in your bill, take out the tax breaks for the wealthiest families. if we are going to reduce the deficit and not hurt poor children like Robert, do not go after those kids for the benefit of wealthy families.

Let me also give you another idea, if you want to save $17 billion. The Republicans close a loophole which has existed in the law. They are going to

allow alternate income, minimum income, for corporations not to be taxed. Let me tell you what that means. If a corporation is profitable in this country and has hired a sufficient number of attorneys and accountants to escape all tax liability, the Republicans say ''Fine, great, let them off the hook. They pay nothing,'' even though they made a profit.

We decided under President Reagan, not a screaming liberal, under President Reagan, to put an alternate minimum tax and say that every corporation has to pay something if it is profitable. Is that unreasonable? I do not think it is; $17 billion will be taken out of Medicaid for poor children for their health care.

Let me tell you what it means in our State of Illinois. When these cuts are being made, it means that in my State of Illinois, 128,000 children in Illinois, poor children, will not get quality health care. That is what is part of this Republican plan. They tell us they are going to balance the budget. They have not told us what we are going to do about Robert and his diabetes. They have not told us what we are going to do about La Rabida hospital, Children's Memorial Hospital, Wyler's Children's Hospital, Presbyterian St. Luke's, Children's Hospital, that depend on Medicaid to serve these poor children.

I stand tonight to speak on behalf of this special interest group. They are never going to come to my fundraisers. They are not going to send me a PAC check. They do not own a fax machine, they cannot fax a message, but these kids are going to be nailed this week by the Republican budget plan. It is totally unnecessary. For at least those kids and their families, I hope the people of this country will contact their Members of Congress and urge them to vote against the Gingrich Republican budget plan.

ITEMS RELATED TO THE BUDGET RECONCILIATION BILL

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to address the House for 5 minutes.

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I object to recognizing the gentleman.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will alternate recognition for 5-minute special orders.

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, did you run out of people for the 5-minute special order list?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair entertains requests on the spot.

Mr. MILLER of California. For unanimous consent?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. For unanimous consent.

Mr. MILLER of California. I object, Mr. Speaker. We have people who have been waiting who were on the list.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All these special orders are 5 minutes.

Mr. MILLER of California. I thought you had to be on the list.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All names on the list have been completed.

Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Tennessee [Mr. DUNCAN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to briefly discuss several items which are directly or indirectly related to the budget reconciliation presently before us.

First, let me say that no one has cornered the market on compassion. No one has a monopoly on virtue.

Yet some around here seem to believe that they have.

Every time any budget cut is proposed, we are told that it is mean spirited, or that it shows a lack of compassion.

Yet what really lacks compassion is for the Federal Government to take so much money from families that they don't have enough money left to support their children in the way they should.

This is what is happening in this country today where the average person has to pay half of his or her income now in taxes when you count taxes of all types, Federal, State, and local—sales, property, income, gas, Social Security, and so forth.

What really shows a lack of compassion is an unwillingness to cut anything so that we can get federal spending under control.

What really shows a lack of compassion is to continue running up large deficits so that we absolutely destroy the economic futures of our children.

What really shows a lack of compassion is to tell the people of this country, through votes on this floor, that bureaucrats can spend their hard-earned money for them better than they can themselves.

And let me say something else—almost every leading economist tells us that our $5 trillion national debt really holds this country back economically.

Times are good for some now. But they could and should be good for everyone. People who are making $5 to $6 an hour could and should be making $10 or $12 an hour.

It sure isn't compassionate to let our national debt get even higher so that the gap between the rich and the poor keeps growing.

The choice is simple. Are we going to side with overpaid and underworked bureaucrats, or are we going to side with the average people who are footing the bill.

Second, I could live with a lower tax cut than $245 billion. But let's put this in perspective.

This is not an all-at-once cut. It is spread over 7 years.

This cut comes out to less than 2 percent—less than 2 percent—of Federal spending over this period.

This follows a 15-year period during which Federal spending has gone up almost 300 percent.

The first Reagan budget was $581 billion. We're spending almost triple that now.

Federal spending has gone up 300 percent in the last 15 years—is it asking too much to give back less than 2 percent?

Seventy percent of this tax cut goes to people making less than $50,000 a year. Do we ever think about that?

Most Republicans support flat tax which totally excludes people making less than $26,000 or couples making less than $38,000 from Federal income taxes altogether.

Do you ever think about that? Who is really for lower income people—someone who wants to keep their taxes high like now, or someone who wants to greatly reduce their taxes.

Third, last week we passed a Medicare bill that provides for a huge increase in Medicare spending.

In Tennessee, we now spend approximately $5,000 per year on the average recipient of Medicare. This will go up to over $7,000, an increase of $2,000 over the next 7 years.

This bill provides for an increase in Medicare spending at twice the rate of inflation. And this is called a cut.

There is no disagreement that Medicare is going broke. The President's own trustees tell us this.

Is it compassionate to sit around and let it go under. Is it right just to fix it until after the next election.

The Medicare bill we passed may not be perfect. But it is sure not a cut; it is a huge increase.

Fourth, we will spend $4 billion in Haiti by the time our troops pull out next February.

Now, the President wants to send 20,000 to 25,000 troops to Bosnia. We are already paying almost one third of the so-called peacekeeping costs there now. We will end up spending billions in Bosnia, too, if we are not careful, and the situation in these places is going to go right back the way it was as soon as we stop pouring our billions and billions into those places.

We should not send young American men and women to fight and die on foreign battlefields, Mr. Speaker, unless there is a vital U.S. interest present, or unless there is a real threat to our national security. Neither of these is present in Bosnia.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, let me say that when I got home last Thursday night, I read in the USA Today that Allen Greenspan is planning through the Federal Reserve Board to spend billions to prop up the Japanese financial system. We should not be doing that, Mr. Speaker. Our obligation should be to the American taxpayers, and not to the big Japanese banks. They would not bail us out if we got in financial trouble, and we should not be bailing out their big banks with billions of our dollars at this time.

RURAL AMERICA AND THE IMPACT OF BUDGET CUTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from North Carolina [Mrs. CLAYTON] is recognized for 5 minutes.