

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 gentleman from North Carolina [Mrs. CLAYTON] is recognized for 5 minutes.