Again, if peace means anything to the people of the Balkans or to the countries that are represented in Dayton, OH, this evening, and for the foreseeable future during this peace process, we want an immediate accounting of David Rohde. We want to know that he is in good condition, and that his safety and health are being respected. We want him released at the earliest possible moment.

KID-GLOVE TREATMENT OF FIDEL CASTRO; AND SHOCKING STATISTICS ON OUR NATION'S INCIDENCE OF KIDNAPINGS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. DIAZ-BALART] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I want to briefly touch upon two subjects this evening.

One, there was a visit to the United States last week by the Cuban dictator, Castro. Unfortunately, he was received by many in New York as though he were something else than what he is. He was, unfortunately, received by some as though he were a democratically elected leader, or someone who was not a horrendous violator of human rights. That is more than unfortunate, because it is really degrading to those who receive someone like that, someone who is a murderer, someone who is responsible for the killing of tens of thousands of human beings, and for maintaining an oppressive system, denying all human rights and democratic possibilities for an entire Nation.

He was received, for example, by Dan Rather at CBS News, given a gift by Dan Rather. Mr. Bernard Shaw of the CNN network interviewed him in an hour, and asked absolutely no followup questions. When Castro was asked by Mr. Shaw, for example, why he did not permit political parties, and Castro said they were divisive, there was no followup question. When he was asked by Mr. Shaw with regard to why Castro's daughter calls the tyrant a murderer and a drug trafficker, the Cuban dictator simply says, ''That is personal,'' and there was no followup question.

I would assume that an appropriate follow-up question would be, ''I'm not asking you a personal question, I'm not asking you if you are a good father, I am asking you to react to the fact that your daughter says you are a drug trafficker and a murderer.'' Of course, there was no follow-up question. I was really sad to see a journalist of that reputation engage in an interview like that.

I guess the key is that there are names, there are hundreds and really thousands of names that we could list, I have no time to list them, but I simply want to name a few, because they are right now in dungeons in Cuba because of the Cuban tyrant, and they were in those dungeons last week while some of our colleagues in this House were receiving the Cuban tyrant, and some of them giving him gifts: Francis Chaviano. Omar del Pozo, a former colonel in Castro's own security force, is receiving electroshocks in a mental institution for demonstrating for democracy. Enrique Labrada. There is a 30-year old young woman, Carmen Arias, in a dungeon right now because she wrote a letter supporting democracy. Jose Miranda, a political prisoner with 72 days on a hunger strike, and for more than 6 months has been refused visits by his family.

That is at this very moment that is going on, and it was going on last week when Castro was being received in New York.

Orson Vila, a Baptist preacher, is in a dungeon now for preaching the word of Christ in Cuba. These are things I wanted to mention. I will continue mentioning them in the following weeks, Mr. Speaker.

I wanted to, very briefly, comment also on another subject, but very important as well, and commend my dear friend, the gentleman from Florida, PETER DEUTSCH, who in a few weeks will be holding a special order on the issue of kidnappings, and the fact that so many children in our country are abducted each year, and specifically remembering a constituent of his and child from our community who we do not forget, young Jimmy Ryce, who was kidnapped on September 11 of this year.

He remembers, and we remember others in our community who were also kidnapped, like Shannon Melendi, a college student at Emory, who we will not forget. We will continue not only to recall, but ask for all, all due efforts to be engaged in by the authorities.

I just want to bring out the fact, I have the figures from 1988, the last year I have: 3,200 to 4,600 children were abducted in our country, ages 4 through 11, and most of these attempts involved a car. What is happening in our society, Mr. Speaker? There can be no crime, obviously, that is more inhumane and simply unjustifiable than kidnapping children.

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I commend the gentleman from Florida [Mr. DIAZ-BALART] for bringing this subject out. We will continue talking about it. There can be no more important subject.

THREE GOALS OF THIS REPUBLICAN CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ALLARD). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DORNAN. Mr. Speaker, would the gentleman from Connecticut [Mr. SHAYS] yield for 10 seconds?

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I will yield very briefly.

Mr. DORNAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, I wanted to add, at the end of the remarks of the gentleman from Florida [Mr. DIAZ-BALART], this column on Fidel Castro from this week's Time magazine. The party at Mort Zuckerman's house with Mike Wallace, Dianne Sawyer, Peter Jennings, Barbara Walters, all sorts of other millionaires, and the guest in uncharacteristic civilian clothes is Fidel Castro. Unbelievable.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Florida [Mr. DIAZ-BALART] for the work he has done in trying to awaken us to the need to be very aggressive as we deal with Mr. Castro.

Mr. Speaker, I wanted to address the House for the 4 minutes I have remaining to respond very strongly to the fact that we have three basic goals in this Republican majority. One, we want to get our financial house in order and balance our budget. The second issue is that we want to save our trust funds, particularly Medicare, and in the process preserve and strengthen it. Also, just as importantly, we want to change this social and corporate welfare state into an opportunity society.

Now, in the process of doing this, I have heard tremendous reference to the fact that we are cutting certain programs that we are not cutting. Admittedly, discretionary spending is going down. There are real cuts in discretionary spending. Foreign aid is being cut. Defense is a hard freeze, but we are oversubscribed in defense programs, so there will be cuts in defense.

But when we come to the earned income tax credit, it is going up, it is not going down. It is going from $19.8 billion this year to $27.4 billion in 7 years. Only in this city, and where the virus has spread, when you go from $19.8 billion to $27.4 billion do people call it a cut.

The School Lunch Program, calling it a cut when it goes in 5 years from $6.3 billion to $7.8 billion. How can that be a cut? It is an increase any way you look at it.

Student loans, over a 5-year program it is going to go from $24 to $33 billion. I say again, only in this city when you go from $24 to $33 billion in student loans is it a cut. Now, what we are doing is saying students are going to pay the interest rate from the moment they graduate until that grace period ends. That will accrue to them. It will cost them, over the life of the program, $9 more a month if they borrowed $17,000.

Then, Medicaid. Medicaid is not being cut, it is going up. It is going up from $89 to $124 billion. We are going to spend over $329 billion more on Medicaid than we did in the last 7 years, we are going to spend in the next 7. That is a 73-percent increase.

Medicare is going to go from $178 to $278 billion, $178 to $278 billion over 7 years. That is a 54-percent increase. Or, in terms of what we spent in the last

7 years, we spent $926 billion, it is going to go up to $1.6 trillion.

That is a difference of $674 billion of new money, 73 percent more than we are going to put in Medicare in the next 7 years than we did in the last 7. Then if you want to know what it is on a per-beneficiary, it is going to go up 40 percent. Only in this city, when you spend more money like we are spending, do people call it a cut.

Now, why are we doing this? We are doing this because our national debt has gone up and up and up. It was about $375 billion around 1975. Democrats and Republicans can share the blame in why these deficits go up. A White House that was Republican, a Congress that was Democrat. That is the past and both fingers were on it. But we have an opportunity now to get our financial house in order and stop increasing our national debt.

I just want to say that I am absolutely determined that there is not a chance that I will vote to increase the national debt until this President agrees to a 7-year budget. I want to say, contrary to what my colleague from Connecticut said, we are not saying it has to be our budget, we are just simply saying it has to be a 7-year budget. We will work out our difference, some of what the President wants, some of what we want. The bottom line, we have to get our financial house in order in 7 years. That is the outer edge. It would be better if we did it in 4 or 5 years.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE 104TH CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. FOX] is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

TRIBUTE TO WALT CHACKER

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I am joined with my colleagues tonight to speak about many issues facing the Congress and America. Before I do, I wanted to spend at least a few moments regarding a very special person from my district recently who passed away, Walt Chacker. He was someone very special, recognized by the President of the United States as a Point of Light for his work in establishing the Zipper Club, which was a support group for those who have had open heart surgery or heart transplants.

He lived for a number of years after his surgery, and he was an inspiration to many other individuals who underwent the surgery and this kind of operation. He was a great support for many people in Pennsylvania and throughout the country, for that matter, and I hope that the great works that he has accomplished in his lifetime will be carried on by many others in States all across this country to help people live longer and better after their surgery and their heart ailment.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I would like to enter into a colloquy with my colleagues, the gentleman from Minnesota [Mr. GUTKNECHT], the gentleman from Iowa [Mr. LATHAM], the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. NORWOOD], and the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. CHAMBLISS], discussing, as we should, basically an assessment of where we are on the Contract With America, what we have already accomplished with the balanced budget amendment and the billion dollar budget for the first time since 1969, and as well about Medicare reform, and basically that has been happening in Congress in a positive way under the Republican leadership.

I would call on Congressman GUTKNECHT to really start our dialog tonight on an assessment of what accomplishments have been made and where you see us going from here. Congressman GUTKNECHT.

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Well, I do want to talk a little bit about our accomplishments and what has been accomplished. I am happy all of us are freshmen. We come to this debate with clean hands. We did not help create the problem. We were not here when the previous Congresses ran up 4.9 trillion dollars' worth of debt.

I have to tell you I am a little upset tonight, and I think the American people should be upset. Frankly, perhaps we have been too nice and too gentlemanly in this debate about the budget and what is happening, and what is happening especially from the administration relative to our efforts to balance this Federal budget.

As I said, we did not help create the problem, but we are trying to clean it up and we are trying to solve it. But I, for one, am really frustrated with the half truths, the distortions, and the bald-faced lies which are coming out and have been coming out and are seemingly getting worse.

I think it is time that we spend a little bit of time tonight clarifying the record and talking about the facts because, as the gentleman from Connecticut just mentioned a few minutes ago, we keep hearing this wornout expression that we are cutting Medicare, we are ending student loans, we have cut school lunch programs, and we are cutting other needed programs so that we can give our rich friends a tax cut.

Frankly, I think it is time we spend a little bit of time tonight piercing through that very thin bubble and exposing the bare truth about what we are really doing with this budget and who the real benefactors will be. It is not the rich. It is working people who get up every day, work hard. They are the glue that holds this society together, and I, for one, happen to believe that they are smart enough to understand exactly what is happening in Washington and what has been going on for too long.

What has been going on for too long is Congress would pass all of the appropriation bills and they would say, oh, gee whiz, once again we spent $250 billion more than we have taken in, and they would say, let us pass the bill on to our grandchildren. So at the last minute they would raise the debt ceiling. So the toughest vote any Congress had to take was to raise the debt ceiling. It is still a tough vote.

But frankly, I think if we continue down that path and just allow us to every year raise the debt ceiling, and the President says he does not like our budget, but the truth of the matter is he has not offered one that really balances the budget, not within 10 years. As a matter of fact, the original plan wouldn't balance the budget in 10 years. We had $200 billion deficits for as far as the eye could see.

He may not like the plan that we have put together, although frankly I think it is very defensible, but let us see his plan. I mean where is a real workable plan from the other side, and the truth of the matter is, there is none.

Earlier we heard one of the speakers from the other side of the aisle say this is the Gingrich budget and the blackmail attempt may force this country into default. But we had a meeting with some of the big bond houses, people who represent the bond houses earlier today, and I came away with a very clear conclusion. It is not whether we are going to default, it is when are we going to default, unless we really change course, are willing to meet the deficit head-on, and deal with it this year and begin down the path toward a balanced budget.

So, I am glad I had an opportunity to get some of this off my chest, but I really have become increasingly frustrated with the lies, the distortions, the half truths that are being foisted upon the American public, and I think it is up to us to help clear the record.

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman would yield, I would just like to ask the gentleman from Minnesota [Mr. GUTKNECHT], is this not the same President that is worried about upheaval in the bond market and instability of the dollar? Is this not the same President that gave Mexico $20 billion to shore up the peso out of a fund that was meant to stabilize the American dollar and the American economy?

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, I think that is absolutely correct.

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman would yield further, I think it is unbelievable that they would accuse us of somehow being irresponsible when that type of activity has taken place.

If I may continue, I would like to focus on a couple of things just in the whole reconciliation, and what this really means all together.

This reconciliation bill is huge, and it is going to affect everyone in the country. There are four basic things that we will accomplish when we get through reconciliation.

Number one, we will get to a balanced budget, and the way we do that