

LINE IN THE SAND ON SPENDING

(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, the magic number is \$730 billion. In this morning's congressional article, it said \$730 billion is what the President wants to spend in excess of what the Congress has passed. We both want balanced budgets, but they want to use different numbers to get there.

We are preparing to spend \$2.6 trillion more in the next 7 years than we spent in the last 7 years, a total of \$12.1 trillion. It seems to me that we can fight on priorities within that number, but we should put the line in the sand: \$12.1 trillion and no more.

If the assumptions that the President wants to use are correct and we do wind up with \$730 billion more in revenues or less in spending, we can apply that to our children's debt. However, we should draw the line in the sand: \$12.1 trillion and not a dollar more.

BREAK THE TIES WITH SPECIAL INTERESTS

(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, 11 months ago, a new Republican majority promised to drive special interest lobbyists from the halls of Congress. What they did not tell us was that the lobbyists would be out of the halls and into their offices.

In fact, instead of ending the cozy relationship between the corporate special interests and lawmakers, Speaker GINGRICH has elevated it to an art form. An article in Monday's Washington Post revealed how the Republican leadership has boasted of twisting arms to raise campaign contributions and rewriting legislation for the highest bidder.

The Republican Campaign Committee even keeps this book on what they call friendly and unfriendly PAC's. The unfriendly PAC's are those that contribute to Democrats. Simply put, those groups are told to give more to Republicans or else.

It is time to break the ties with special interests. This is the people's House. Let us return it to the people today by passing a clean lobby reform bill.

NO GROUND TROOPS IN BOSNIA

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

Mr. FUNDERBURK. Mr. Speaker, our side needs a leader or leaders with the courage to say clearly that we should not send ground troops into Bosnia. It is not in America's vital national security interests. And there is absolutely

nothing to be achieved for America, but much to be lost. We will lose lives and a year later if we leave—which is questionable—full scale ethnic war will resume as during the previous 600 years. Thus nothing will be accomplished but a year-long experiment of the President to gain macho credentials and leadership demonstration.

Bosnia is the latest in Bill Clinton's foreign misadventures. There was Somalia and there was Haiti. And what was gained in those places. In Haiti under the not-so-democratic Aristide, the so-called peace is unraveling.

And America cannot afford in dollars or lives, what NATO and the Europeans have been unwilling to do. It is Europe's turn to look out for its backyard.

With the onset of winter in the mountains of Bosnia and Herzegovina and over a million land mines in place, we do not need American lives sacrificed before Christmas for some artificial creation called Bosnia. In the Congress, let us assert our authority and not fund the latest unwise, tragic foreign misadventure of an aspiring leader named Bill Clinton. No money to send United States ground troops to Bosnia, period.

SAY NO TO GOP DOPE

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

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, both Democrats and Republicans agree that the American worker is in need of relief. Stagnating wages, longer hours, corporate downsizing, and NAFTA have all taken their toll on what was once the world's highest living standard.

By contrast, the stock market is breaking new records, corporate profits are going through the roof, and corporate executives are making 30 times more than their lowest paid employees.

Yet the Republican solution to these inequities is to cut taxes for wealthy corporations, reduce worker safety, and increase funding for star wars and B-2 bombers.

This trickle-down strategy, Mr. Speaker, is the crack cocaine of bad economic policy. I urge my colleagues to just say no to GOP dope.

AMERICANS NEED BUDGET PLAN FROM THE PRESIDENT

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

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, it has been over a week since President Clinton committed in writing to an honest balanced budget in 7 years. The Republican majority has a specific plan—we have passed it in both the House and the Senate—now where is the President's plan.

But, the President has not submitted a specific plan. Sure, he sent us 22

pages of general talking points this summer, 10 of which were charts and graphs. And last week, his Chief of Staff, Leon Panetta, sent us a 2-page list of general principles that contained no numbers or specifics whatsoever. The American people have heard enough talk about general goals—they want action now. They want the President to put his plan on paper.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to do what is right for our children's future. Let us sit down, work together, no more rhetoric—no more excuses. Both the Republican majority and the President have promised to balance the budget. Let us keep our promise and let us do it now.

REPUBLICAN PLAN OFFERS TAX RELIEF TO AMERICAN FAMILIES

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

Mr. LARGENT. Mr. Speaker, I appear here today as a Member of Congress, but more importantly, I speak as the father of four children. I know firsthand what it costs to raise a family in middle America and I am glad that the Balanced Budget Act includes tax relief for families.

Tax relief for families should not be looked at as a cost to Government. Instead, we should consider it as a way to keep money in the hands of those to whom it belongs in the first place: America's working families.

Cutting taxes is also fiscally responsible. America's families deserve tax relief and Federal spending should be reined in and controlled. Reducing the growth of Federal spending is the way to get to balance, not by taking more money from families.

The bipartisan agreement to balance the budget in 7 years using honest numbers is a step in the right direction. The Government's constant deficit spending must be stopped. I also strongly support tax relief which allows American families to keep more of their own money.

Our Democrat friends claim that they want to balance the budget too. They say that deficit reduction is their goal and we agree.

Let us work together to reach a balanced budget with tax cuts and no new spending.

PRESIDENT SHOULD SIGN DEFENSE APPROPRIATION BILL

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

Mr. MONTGOMERY. Mr. Speaker, I have learned that the President of the United States has taken the defense appropriations bill to Europe with him and he will decide whether he will sign the bill or not sign the bill. I certainly hope he will sign it. If he does not sign it, I hope he will not veto the defense appropriation bill. I think it is a reasonable approach.

We have military forces all around the world today. We need as much money as possible to keep these forces in the different places. The President is talking now about Bosnia. So certainly I hope the President of the United States would sign this legislation and the money needed to take care of our troops.

About the only thing that we need in this country, to be sure, is that we have a strong military defense. If we have a good defense, we can just about do everything in this great country.

BALANCED BUDGET WILL RECHARGE OUR ECONOMY

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, our Nation needs a balanced budget, not because it's a good accounting device, but because it will help every American.

A balanced budget will recharge the economy. It will cause interest rates to drop. And reduced interests rates mean lower mortgage payments, lower car payments, lower student loan payments.

As part of the Republican plan to balance the budget in 7 years, there are income tax cuts for families. And there is a capital gains tax cut for job growth. This will generate more investments, more business expansion, and more jobs.

Before he was elected, President Clinton said he could balance the budget in 5 years. After the election he said it wasn't necessary. Now he says that he wants to balance the budget in 7 years but he still has not presented a plan.

The Republicans do have a plan. Let's balance the budget, cut taxes, and create jobs now.

AMERICANS WANT MORE INFORMATION ON BOSNIAN TROOP DEPLOYMENT

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

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, I have profound reservations about the participation of United States forces in a Bosnian peacekeeping mission. So do the people I represent. Of the many calls I have received on this matter over the past several days, not one has favored U.S. involvement.

At the same time, I also recognize the dangers that are inherent in a policy of noninvolvement.

If the United States abandons NATO's peace efforts in Bosnia, we could weaken and even destroy an alliance that has helped deter multinational conflicts for half a century. The current peace initiative would surely collapse. And if this ghastly slaughter ever spreads beyond the bor-

ders of the former Yugoslavia, our country's economic and military security would be critically threatened.

Americans know that our own security requires a secure peace in Europe. When necessary, they support deployment of our troops as peacekeepers—but not as targets. They want more information about the military plan, troop security, the mission's goals, and the plan for withdrawal. So do I.

□ 1030

PERMISSION FOR SUNDRY COMMITTEES AND THEIR SUBCOMMITTEES TO SIT TODAY DURING THE 5-MINUTE RULE

Mr. LARGENT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the following committees and their subcommittees be permitted to sit today while the House is meeting in the Committee of the Whole House under the 5-minute rule:

Committee on Commerce; Committee on Government Reform and Oversight; Committee on Resources; and Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

It is my understanding that the minority has been consulted and that there is no objection to these requests.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ALLARD). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Oklahoma?

There was no objection.

PROPOSED AGREEMENT FOR COOPERATION IN PEACEFUL USES OF NUCLEAR ENERGY BETWEEN UNITED STATES AND EUROPEAN ATOMIC ENERGY COMMUNITY—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 104-138)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

I am pleased to transmit to the Congress, pursuant to sections 123 b. and 123 d. of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (42 U.S.C. 2153(b), (d)), the text of a proposed Agreement for Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy Between the United States of America and the European Atomic Energy Community (EURATOM) with accompanying agreed minute, annexes, and other attachments. (The confidential list of EURATOM storage facilities covered by the Agreement is being transmitted directly to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the House International Relations Committee.) I am also pleased to transmit my written approval, authorization and determination concerning the agreement, and the memorandum of the Director of the United States Arms Control and Disar-

mament Agency with the Nuclear Proliferation Assessment Statement concerning the agreement. The joint memorandum submitted to me by the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Energy, which includes a summary of the provisions of the agreement and other attachments, including the views of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, is also enclosed.

The proposed new agreement with EURATOM has been negotiated in accordance with the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended by the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Act of 1978 (NNPA) and as otherwise amended. It replaces two existing agreements for peaceful nuclear cooperation with EURATOM, including the 1960 agreement that has served as our primary legal framework for cooperation in recent years and that will expire by its terms on December 31 of this year. The proposed new agreement will provide an updated, comprehensive framework for peaceful nuclear cooperation between the United States and EURATOM, will facilitate such cooperation, and will establish strengthened nonproliferation conditions and controls including all those required by the NNPA. The new agreement provides for the transfer of non-nuclear material, nuclear material, and equipment for both nuclear research and nuclear power purposes. It does not provide for transfers under the agreement of any sensitive nuclear technology (SNT).

The proposed agreement has an initial term of 30 years, and will continue in force indefinitely thereafter in increments of 5 years each until terminated in accordance with its provisions. In the event of termination, key nonproliferation conditions and controls, including guarantees of safeguards, peaceful use and adequate physical protection, and the U.S. right to approve retransfers to third parties, will remain effective with respect to transferred nonnuclear material, nuclear material, and equipment, as well as nuclear material produced through their use. Procedures are also established for determining the survival of additional controls.

The member states of EURATOM and the European Union itself have impeccable nuclear nonproliferation credentials. All EURATOM member states are party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). EURATOM and all its nonnuclear weapon state member states have an agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) for the application of full-scope IAEA safeguards within the respective territories of the nonnuclear weapon states. The two EURATOM nuclear weapon states, France and the United Kingdom, like the United States, have voluntary safeguards agreements with the IAEA. In addition, EURATOM itself applies its own stringent safeguards at all peaceful facilities within the territories of all member states. The United States and EURATOM are of one mind in their