

WE NEED TO HELP ORDINARY PEOPLE

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

Mr. STUPAK. The GOP balanced budget plan, as the last speaker says, give \$245 billion in tax breaks. Those tax breaks go to the wealthiest 1 percent of this country, and they repeal the alternative minimum corporate tax. Corporations do not have to pay taxes under their plan.

I would like my colleagues to listen to what my constituents say. I got a letter from a constituent from Charlevoix, MI, that says:

My wife is a bookkeeper at Charlevoix Hospital. I run a very small business in town. My wife will get a small pension from the hospital plus Social Security when she retires. I will only get Social Security. I have had 2 heart attacks, and I am a noninsulin diabetic. My wife, although working, does so while in much pain with a back ailment. With all we have to worry about in this present day, why do we have to be faced with a large group in the Congress that apparently is bent on making us suffer even more in our old age? People need help, not corporations. The wealthiest do not need tax breaks. We need to help ordinary people the middle class. Balance the budget, yes, but not on the backs of the middle class.

CLINTON SHOULD PAY PRICE FOR TRADE GIVEAWAY

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

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, 10 years ago the United States of America had 100 percent of the commercial space-launch market, today we have 30 percent, and yesterday the President's trade negotiators gave away that remaining 30 percent. They signed a trade agreement with the Ukraine to allow them to launch United States satellites. Today we have the French, the Chinese, the Russians, and now the Ukrainians, putting United States satellites in orbit.

President Clinton ran as the domestic policy President committed to creating high-quality jobs for Americans. Yesterday he turned his back on thousands of working people on Florida's space coast, in California, in St. Louis, MO, in New Mexico, and Alaska, and he should pay a price for it in the election of 1996.

"FIGURES DON'T LIE, BUT LIARS FIGURE"

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

Mr. HEFNER. Mr. Speaker, I was hoping that my good friend, the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. KASICH], the chairman of the Committee on the Budget, would be here and all the people that have spoken that there is not a cut in Medicare and Medicaid.

I am a senior citizen. There are cuts in Medicare and Medicaid.

If there are not cuts in Medicare and Medicaid, why can we not have the tax cut unless they get the Medicare-Medicaid cuts? Unless we score the \$270 million cuts in Medicare and Medicaid, we cannot have a \$245 billion tax cut. It does not take a space scientist to figure that out.

There is an old saying in North Carolina, "figures don't lie, but liars figure."

WE WILL BE PAYING FOR BOSNIA

(Mr. DUNCAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday on the CBS radio news, a man from Tuzla was asked what it meant to him that the Americans were coming.

He shouted back in a happy, accented voice that I won't try to imitate: "Money—Only Money."

A few days earlier, I had seen the deputy major of Tuzla say on one of our national networks that he expected the Americans to rebuild their infrastructure.

At about that same time, the Bosnian leadership said they would need \$25 billion in loans from the World Bank to rebuild their country.

The biggest contributor to the World Bank: the United States of course.

This is all in addition to the \$600 million we promised in aid, up front at Dayton, and the billions we will spend on our own troops.

As long as we are there, we can keep the peace, and I think and hope with very few casualties.

But we will be borrowing billions to do it, and the American people, especially our children and grandchildren, will be paying for this for a very long time to come.

A THOUSAND-DOLLAR OFFER

(Mr. EDWARDS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, we have all heard an awful lot about Mr. Haley Barbour, the head of the Republican National Committee, and his offer of \$1 million regarding Medicare cuts. Now I would like to make an offer today to Mr. Barbour and Members of this House.

As a Democrat I am not as wealthy as some of my Republican friends, and certainly not as wealthy as the Republican National Committee, so I cannot offer \$1 million. But I will take \$1,000 out of my own savings account and offer it to any Republican Member of this House who can prove that their Medicare and Medicaid budget plan will not cut real services to senior citizens, real services to senior citizens.

My friends, that is what counts, cutting care in nursing homes, cutting care in rural health care hospitals for senior citizens. That is what the Re-

publican plan does, that is what is important, not silly little gimmicks in ads such as this.

But I will maintain my offer of \$1,000 to any Republican in this House who can suggest and prove that their plan will not cut services for our Nation's seniors.

REPUBLICAN PLAN BALANCES THE BUDGET

(Mr. GANSKE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GANSKE. Mr. Speaker, prior to November 1 was a physician taking care of Medicare patients. It is indisputable that unless we can slow the rate of growth in 6 years, there are insufficient funds to pay the bills. That will cause significant problems for those Medicare beneficiaries. As has been said already before this morning, only 2 years ago Mrs. Clinton said slowing the rate of growth to twice the rate of inflation is not a cut. That stands today as it stood then.

Mr. Speaker, the Republicans have presented a budget plan that balances the budget. We use honest numbers. While Republicans are busy trying to save the country from bankruptcy, there are those who are busy with political campaigns based on fearmongering and scare tactics, and it is time to get serious about our children's future, it is time to get serious about whether our senior citizens will have a Medicare plan.

Let us balance the budget now.

BUDGET SHOULD REFLECT AMERICA'S PRIORITIES

(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, to the prior speaker I say, "Take the tax break off the table, and we will have a Medicare program for seniors and we will balance the budget."

Last month Speaker GINGRICH shut down the Government because he did not like his seat on Air Force One. Now he is at it again. This time the Speaker wants his way on the budget. While President Clinton, Democrats, and Republicans in the other body all try to reach a budget agreement, the Gingrich Republicans want to shut down the Government in order to force their budget priorities on this country.

But the American people have rejected the Gingrich budget, a budget which slashes Medicare, education, environmental protection, to finance that crown jewel of the contract, tax breaks for the wealthiest Americans.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for House Republicans to join the President, Democrats, and Republicans in the other body at the negotiating table. Let us give the American people an early Christmas present, a budget that reflects America's priorities, not Speaker GINGRICH's priorities.

FACTS AND FICTION ABOUT THE BUDGET

(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, in their zeal to defend the status quo, President Clinton and his Democrat allies in the Congress have inundated Americans with a barrage of misinformation about the Republican plan to balance the budget. So let me make the distinction between Clinton fiction and the plain facts.

Fiction: The Republican plan to balance the budget cuts education. Fact: Funds for student loans rise from \$24 billion to \$36 billion, and the maximum Pell grant goes up to its highest level ever.

Fiction: Our plan cuts Medicare. Fact: Medicare spending will increase by 7.2 percent, more than double the rate of inflation, each year. That is an increase from \$4,800 to \$7,100 per beneficiary. Only in Washington would a 50-percent increase be called a cut.

Mr. Speaker, when the facts are laid out, the American people support our plan to balance the budget. Let us give them the best Christmas present ever. I say to the President, support our balanced budget.

REPUBLICANS MUST COMPROMISE

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I cannot believe that this House just passed a Republican-sponsored motion that allows us to go into recess for 3 days with the pending shutdown of the Government once again. I fully expected this morning, maybe naively, that I would be here to vote for a continuing resolution that would let the Government continue to operate while we worked out our differences over the budget, but that is not happening.

The President said that he was willing to go ahead with what we call a clean continuing resolution. On the Senate side they said that they would agree to it. But here in the House, the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. GINGRICH] and the Republicans say that they will not, and I do not think it is fair. There is tremendous cost involved to this Government if we shut down again this coming Monday or any days following that, and the President has put forward a compromise budget that allows for a balanced budget over 7 years. It maintains the priorities, protects Medicare, protects Medicaid, protects the environment and education.

The Republicans have not done that. They made an agreement on the previous CR that they would try to come up with a compromise that protected Medicare and Medicaid and the other goals, and so far they have not. I think it is incumbent on them to do so.

CONFIDENCE, HOPE, AND GROWTH

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

Mrs. SEASTRAND. Mr. Speaker, America has been blessed with many good things. We are the richest, most productive Nation ever in the recorded history of mankind.

Today, the Congress and the President are locked in a conflict over the budget. And to paraphrase the Gipper, Ronald Reagan, it is conflict not really between two parties, but between two differing visions of the future.

One is a vision of fear and limits. The Republicans vision is one of confidence, hope, and growth.

Republicans want the best for the American family. We believe our middle-class tax cuts are profamily, progrowth, and prowork.

Liberal Democrats, on the other hand, want the best for the American Government. They love higher taxes, more rules, more regulation, and bigger bureaucracies.

Mr. Speaker, this battle over the budget is not a choice between left or right, it is a choice between up or down. I, for one, want the American people to progress and for the Government to live within its means.

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SHUT DOWN THE GOVERNMENT, SHUT DOWN CONGRESSIONAL PAYCHECKS

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

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. Speaker, last month the Gingrich Republicans shut down the Federal Government for the longest period of time in the history of the United States. While 800,000 Federal workers were sent home with uncertainty as to whether they would be paid, the American taxpayers picked up the bill. In fact, we paid \$700 million when the Gingrich Republicans, because of their failure to pass spending bills, shut down the Federal Government. Now they are about to set another record. They are going to shut down the Federal Government for the second time in 1 year. This time they want to do it a few days before Christmas.

Just a few minutes ago, the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. GINGRICH] and his Republican friends passed a motion here so we could recess and leave for 3 days. Members of Congress can go home and shop for Christmas gifts while 350,000 Federal employees are uncertain as to whether or not they are going to be on the payroll on Monday. If Members of Congress on the Republican side believe this is a matter of principle, join me and support the bill: No budget, no pay. Shut down the Government, you shut down congressional paychecks. That will end this foolishness in a hurry.

THE NATIONAL DEBT

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, this is the national debt. I think we need to bring a little sobriety to this debate here today. \$4,988,313,115,981.39. As Members can see, Mr. Speaker, this debt is too big for the camera. This debt is too big for a convenient pocket-size chart. This debt, most importantly, is too big to pass on to our children. What it means to them is that in their lifetime they will have less income, they will pay higher interest rates, they will have a lower quality of life and less opportunities; but if we in the next week do the right thing and balance the budget, then in 7 years we can start paying down this horrendous number so our children can enjoy the great America that you and I believe in and work for. We did not get into this mess because of Democrats or Republicans. We have to get out of it because of both parties working together.

MEDICARE, MEDICAID, AND THE FEDERAL DEBT

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

Mr. WARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the subject of Medicaid and Medicare and to respond to the gentleman on the issue of the Federal debt. I supported a 7-year balanced budget program but, in doing so, I did not support a \$245 billion tax break that the Republican side insists on keeping in that bill while we have this huge deficit.

Mr. Speaker, I do not doubt the sincerity of the commitment of the Speaker and the Republican caucus in taking care of the budget deficit, but I am reminded of the cartoon, the Christmas classic, "The Grinch Who Stole Christmas." It runs every year of TV and I urge Members to take a look at it again. What they say about the grinch I think is true.

In spite of my acceptance of the sincerity on the Republican side, maybe, like the grinch, their hearts are just two sizes too small, because the decision that they are making on this budget is to reduce taxes on the wealthiest while increasing, increasing taxes on the poorest.

SUPPORT OUR TROOPS

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

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, during the Bosnia debate a day or so ago, a number of Members came to the House floor to support provisions that they believe manifested the House's support for the troops: Do we support our