

I have consistently advocated that criminal aliens should be quickly and permanently deported. Not only do I support the permanent deportation of criminal aliens, I want them caught before they commit crimes and jeopardize our communities. Without Federal assistance in undertaking this law enforcement effort, criminal aliens could cause undue harm to women, men and children.

The Federal Government should do all it can to avoid burdening State and local police budgets with the cost of identifying, apprehending and deporting criminal aliens.

The pilot program in the city of Anaheim has resulted in a very successful track record of detentions and deportations of criminal aliens. Because I fully endorse the program's success, I contacted the INS and requested that the Anaheim portion of the pilot program be continued. The INS approved my request.

Because of my concerns, I have joined my colleagues in sending a letter to the Committee on the Budget requesting an increase in funding for the State criminal alien assistance program. This program reimburses State and local governments for the costs of incarcerating illegal alien felons. The Federal Government must not waste American taxpayer dollars to pay for the cost of incarcerating violent criminal aliens. We cannot afford to waste scarce law enforcement revenues.

As a fiscal conservative and in the light of the current budget roadblock, Congress must implement a cost-effective program that deploys INS enforcement officers in the most efficient manner. We need to ensure that more criminals are captured earlier and before they have done harm to our people in our districts and before they end up being a burden to our local law enforcement.

#### THE BUDGET AGREEMENT

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

Mr. NEUMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to address the budget that is currently being discussed in Washington, DC, and maybe to clean up some misinformation that is floating around out here and provide some very basic elementary facts on what is included in the budget agreement that is currently being worked on and basically been agreed to, short a few final details.

Here is all this budget plan does that is currently being proposed. It balances by the year 2002, has declining deficits for each year starting 1998 and going forward, restores Medicare for a decade so our seniors do not have to go to sleep tonight wondering whether Medicare is going to be there tomorrow. It allows families, all Americans to keep more of their own money instead of sending it to Washington, DC.

This is done in four ways at least. The \$500 per child tax credit is in here.

Capital gains will be reduced, we are hoping, to a number below 20 percent. The death tax reform to allow people to not have to pass away and also see the taxman on the same day is in here. Also, we are hoping to provide a college tuition tax credit to help the many people across this Nation who are paying large college tuition bills this year.

Further, the budget plan does not adjust the CPI. This was a major concern to our senior citizens because, of course, lowering the CPI would reduce cost-of-living adjustments in the future. So there is no CPI adjustment in here. It was a major concern, and it has been addressed and is no longer part of it.

Also in the plan there is discussion and it is laid out exactly how to go about past 2002, paying off the Federal debt. And when we pay off the Federal debt, of course, that means that we also put the money back in the Social Security trust fund that has been taken out. I might add that it was brought to my attention this morning that as we pay off the Federal debt we would also be returning the money to the highway trust fund that has been spent over the last 10 or 15 years as opposed to dedicated to road construction.

As I am out here, there are a lot of things that have developed in this plan. There is an awful lot of misinformation floating around about it. But I think it is time that we look at some of the great things that have happened both under this plan in the last 2 years and how they compare to what happened prior to that.

In the 7 years before 1995, before the Republicans took over Congress, annual spending increases in overall Government was 5.2 percent. Government spending went up 5.2 percent every year. Since the Republicans have taken over in 1995 and as we look at this budget plan, 3.2. So it is a decrease in the amount of growth in Federal Government spending. In inflation adjusted dollars, it was 1.8, and it is all the way down to 0.6. It is a two-thirds reduction in the increases in real-dollar spending of this Government.

I heard some complaints that non-discretionary defense spending is going up too much in this plan. That is not really true either when we look at the facts. We look at the facts before 1995, nondiscretionary defense spending was going up by an average rate of 6.7 percent per year. And under this plan it goes up by 0.9 percent per year, less than 1 percent increase per year. In real dollars, it was 3.2 before 1995, and under this plan it is actually being decreased by 1.5.

A lot of folks talk about us using a rosy scenario to make it look like the budget is balanced. I have good news for everyone in this great country that we live in. The good news is they were not rosy scenario projections that led to the budget getting balanced. The growth in GDP is now being projected 0.2 percent lower than projections we

used in 1995. As a matter of fact, they are very conservative projections. And should the economy continue strong as it is today, the good news is we might very well, under this agreement, reach a balanced budget by 2000 or perhaps even 1999. That is how conservative the projections in this plan are.

One more point I would like to bring to the attention of my colleagues today. Back in 1995, we passed a budget resolution and we declared victory. We said that this is the best thing that could happen to this country because it is going to lead to a balanced budget. We had this idea that, if Government just controlled their growth, they reduced the amount of money they were borrowing out of the private sector, that that would lead to a strong economy in our country.

The theory was, if Government borrowed less, there would be more money available in the private sector. With more money available in the private sector, interest rates would stay low because of increased availability, and with interest rates low, people would start buying more houses and cars and the economy would boom. People would leave the welfare rolls and they would go back to work.

In fact, we find this is no longer a theory, but the model worked better than anyone anticipated. In the budget plan of 1995, we projected a deficit in 1997 of \$174 billion. It turns out this model worked so well that the deficit is all the way down to \$70 billion this year.

I would like to conclude with what I would call the miracle of 1997. I really do think this is a miracle. Before I came to Washington, I would have described this as a miracle. Here is the miracle of 1997.

Between our 1995 projections and today, \$100 billion of unanticipated revenue came in. That is, they collected more revenue because the economy is so strong, \$100 billion more than what was expected. The miracle is this, instead of spending that \$100 billion, every nickel of it went to deficit reduction; and, in fact, that is why the deficit is \$100 billion below what we anticipated back in 1995, when we passed the House budget resolution.

The end result, what this means for our families in America, it means that our kids can look forward to a bright future once again in this great Nation that we live in.

#### PERSIAN GULF WAR SYNDROME

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

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I briefly wanted to discuss an amendment which I will be introducing as soon as the rule on the supplementary appropriation is fixed, which deals with an emergency situation for gulf war veterans who are really not getting the attention and the understanding that they need in