

They were quite overwhelming. They involved, especially, choice and child care issues. I come to the floor this afternoon, however, grateful that we have removed contraception from the women's list of demerits for the 105th Congress. May we all do better in the 106th Congress.

FOUR YEARS' ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF REPUBLICAN-CONTROLLED CONGRESS

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

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I just came from our Republican Conference talking about what is in this omnibus appropriation bill. The good news is that when we think of what might have happened with the tax-and-spend presidency, with the tax-and-spend Democrats, what would have happened if Democrats were in control of this Chamber not fighting to make sure that we did not reach into the surpluses that we have for additional spending.

What we have accomplished since the Republicans took the majority 4 years ago is a tremendous reduction in deficit spending. The unified budget deficit 4 years ago was \$210 billion. If we add to that what we were borrowing from the Social Security trust fund, then it came to about \$160 billion, more deficit at that time than we have this year.

We actually paid down the debt to the public this past year by \$60 billion. We expect that this current fiscal year, the 1999 fiscal year, we will reduce the debt to the public, the public debt, by an additional \$62 billion. It is not as good as it should be. We are still borrowing some of that money from the Social Security trust fund for other spending. I wish my colleagues would join me in cosponsoring my bill that stops the government from borrowing this money and leaving simple IOUs.

Look, the point is that we have got a good start. We have got a smaller deficit by \$260 billion than we had 4 years ago. If we look at what happened when I first came to this Congress in 1993, the frustration of a Democrat majority and a presidency that increased taxes on senior citizens, on gasoline, and so most Republicans voted against it, most every Democrat voted for it, and we have been trying to turn that around ever since.

Now the goals of this Congress, with a majority of Republicans, I think is twofold. I think we are looking at traditional family values. There is not a lot that government can do about traditional family values, but, look, there are some things we can do. The marriage penalty tax. We can set an example. We can encourage neighborhoods to get involved. And that is what we are trying to do with our drug program.

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We have expanded money for drug control in this Congress with this

budget that we expect to pass in the next 48 hours. Drugs are disrupting education. Drugs are one of the major causes of crime. And we are saying that, look, we are going to be serious about an all-out war on drugs.

I think as we look at our challenges ahead for the future, certainly we have got to put a priority on trying to deal with the fiscal problem of Social Security and Medicare. Those are two huge challenges that we have got to face up to. I am concerned about the politics that is being played with those items during this election year.

I would just suggest, Mr. Speaker, to everybody out there that might be listening to this program to brace up for the last two weeks of this campaign, as there is going to be a lot of misleading and false information out there that suggests that one side of the aisle cares less about balancing the budget or more than the other side, that one side cares less or more about Social Security and Medicare.

Our two biggest fiscal problems are Social Security and Medicare that we have got to deal with. I think on the domestic side, we need to look at traditional family values. We need to give the kind of priority to education that this appropriation bill gives, as we have expanded over and above what the President requested for the programs for the slow learners, for the special program education money that goes into IDEA, because hopefully both sides of the aisle will give the kind of priority to education, will give the kind of priority to reducing crime that this particular appropriation bill does that we will pass in the next two days.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GUTKNECHT). The Chair would advise that it is inappropriate to address the viewing audience.

HOW HISPANIC AMERICANS FARED

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

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, we are very close to the end of this session, and perhaps it is fitting that we have an opportunity to try to assess what has gone on this year. It happens that as the individual who has been given the privilege to serve this Congress as the chairman of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, a caucus which is composed of all those Members of Congress of Hispanic heritage, that this year we have an opportunity to talk a little bit about how Hispanic Americans have fared in this Congress and through this White House in legislation and in proposals administered by the executive branch of government.

And to help us in that we are fortunate. About 8 years ago many of the national Hispanic organizations came

together and formed an umbrella organization, the National Hispanic Leadership Agenda. Back in 1991, when they formed, they decided to have a policy to try to come together and see if with all the voices of these national organizations, they could try to project a voice for Americans of Hispanic descent.

This organization is nonpartisan and it is, as I said, a coalition of all the major national Hispanic organizations. It includes communities from all the different streams of Hispanic America. It includes those individuals of Mexican American ancestry, Puerto Rican ancestry, Cuban Americans and all those who are from the Caribbean, Central and South American areas.

Let me give you a list of some of the organizations, national organizations that are part of the National Hispanic Leadership Agenda. We have the Hispanic National Bar Association. We have the Hispanic Association of Corporate Responsibility. We have the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Cuban American National Council, the League of United Latin American Citizens, the National Hispanic Corporate Council. We have the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers, the Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities, the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, the American GI Forum, Alianza Dominicana, the National Puerto Rican Coalition, MANA, a National Latina Organization, the National Hispanic Council on Aging, the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials, the National Council of La Raza, and the U.S.-Mexico Chamber of Commerce, to name some of the many organizations that are part of the National Hispanic Leadership Agenda. Overall they represent millions of Americans and try as best possible to come together in one voice.

Let me show you a little bit of what they came up with. This is their scorecard that they just recently issued. It is called the National Hispanic Leadership Agenda congressional scorecard, 105th Congress. What the various organizations do within the NHLA is to take a number of very important votes that this Congress took this year and in 1997, during the 105th Congress, and assess where we stood as a Congress with respect to issues important to Americans of Hispanic descent.

They took many votes, about 24 of the most important votes that were taken here in the House and about 11 of the most important votes taken in the Senate, and they came up with a scorecard. And I went ahead and summarized some of that so we would at least have a sense of where we are this year at the end of the year.

Let me, if I may then, refer to this chart. If you break it down, you will see that votes taken by the House and the Senate, there were more votes taken in the House than in the Senate