

I think today's agreement between Congress and the White House on the remaining spending bills represents a victory for those seeking to take this country in a direction of smaller government, holding the line on spending, local control of education, tax relief, a stronger military, and more weapons for the war on drugs.

After many months of difficult negotiations, an agreement has been reached that reflects the priorities of this Republican-controlled Congress. This Congress, I think, can properly be called "The Surplus Congress." I think there is great pride in that nomenclature that this is "The Surplus Congress."

Just a short time ago, Congress was faced with \$200 billion a year deficits for as far as the eye can see. Now we have the responsibility, yes, and the duty to manage the surplus which we see in the future. What a great difference in how much more fun and interesting it is to talk about managing the surplus and what we are going to do with that surplus.

Number one, of course we are going to preserve and strengthen Social Security and Medicare. The process that we are going through right here in October of 1998 shows the need for the dedication of this Congress to do that, because we are at what we hope is the final hour of the negotiations of the spending for the next year.

Had the Republicans not be in control of Congress, there would have been a lot less surplus to be allocated to preserving Social Security and Medicare. In fact, had we given in to all the requests for spending, we would not have had to have a debate on surplus, because it would have all been spent.

But in this agreement that we hope will come before this body and the other body in the next day or two, we have some really great victories.

I want to talk a minute about education. Education is important in every district in America. In the last 2 years, I have taken the opportunity to go around and talk with my teachers. I did not just talk to the superintendent. I talked with the teachers from the classroom.

I asked them about some of the issues we were debating out here. I want to tell my colleagues that I was surprised at some of their answers.

I thought, for instance, that the teachers would be for more testing. No way. They explained to me very simply how many different tests they had to do for the school district and for the State. Then they said, if we have more testing at the national level, it really interferes with what they are trying to accomplish in the classroom. It made very good sense to me. Certainly, it brought me back here with a renewed vigor to oppose more national testing.

How many times do we count the eggs? We do not have to do it 15 different ways to come up with the same answer. We need some testing. We do not need national mandated testing. I

am really glad to see that that is not going to be part of next year's spending priorities.

Dollars to the Classroom, absolutely what we need. Let us get the money out there where the work is being done. The program that we passed in this House and what I think the budget will carry forth is going to put money in the classrooms of the schools around this country.

There was a desire to say we are going to put 1,000 new teachers; but when I talked to teachers, they said, well, you know, some classes can have 22. Some need to be at 18 or less. Give the local schools the decision making which they can do best. That is in this program.

We will be visiting with more of those things. I am pleased to be here to talk about our educational priorities.

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REPUBLICAN EDUCATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I think it is a great day for American children today. The debate the last couple of weeks should have had nothing to do with show and tell. It should have had nothing to do with who better understands how important education is to the future of this country. The whole issue, of course, was one of who knows better how to bring about quality education, people on the local level, the teachers, the administrators, the parents, or we in Washington, D.C.? And as I have said to my committee so many times, if all of those programs from Washington, D.C., down would have worked, we would not have a problem with literacy in this country. We would not have a problem with drugs in this country. We would not have a problem with dropouts in this country. We would not have a problem with people graduating who cannot do math and cannot do science very well. If they had worked. They did not work. The reason they did not work was because nobody paid any attention about quality. We said one size fits all. "Take it from us, we know better than anybody else." We also said, "Let's cover numbers. Don't worry about whether you're covering them with quality. Just cover numbers." And so we did a lot of different things. As a new majority we said in our higher education bill, no longer universities and colleges who support pupil-teacher preparation. We want you to produce quality teachers. It does not matter whether your pupil ratio is 1 to 2, 2 to 2, 20 to 1, if you do not have a quality teacher in the classroom, it does not make any difference. So we are telling those institutions that prepare teachers, "It is the 21st century. You must prepare them for

the 21st century." We told them in special ed, "Don't just say, 'We're going to continue to tell you exactly how to do it and not send you any money.'" I am very proud of our operation in the last 2 years as far as our help to local districts to deal with the special ed costs. Keep in mind 30 years ago the former majority said, "Here is a 100 percent mandate from Washington, D.C., in relationship to special ed. We will send you 40 percent of the excess cost." Excess cost, the difference between educating a regular student and a special needs student. When I became chairman, we were sending 6 percent. Now who do you think is funding our 100 percent mandate? I can tell you who is funding it, the local school district. The city of York, they have to spend \$6 million. Only 49,000 people in the city of York. They must spend \$6 million in special ed because it is a 100 percent mandate from Washington, D.C. and we send them \$37,000. Where do they have to get the rest of the money? They have to take it away from every other child, they have to take it away from maintaining buildings, they have to take it away from pupil-teacher ratio, because we set the mandate, promised the money, and did not send the money. The last 2 years, we said, "We're going to send you money." In fact, this year will be the first that the local school district will be able to reduce their expenditures on special ed so that they can put it into maintenance, so that they can put it into pupil-teacher ratio for all the other students.

Head Start. Whoever sold Head Start has to be the greatest salesperson in the world. That person certainly could have sold, no, I will not say that, I may offend somebody. But nevertheless, a great salesperson. But what they did not talk about was study after study after study said it was not doing what we wanted it to do in the early years. Why? Because the weakest part of the program should have been the most important part of the program and that was the education component. So that we should have had children reading ready by the time they got to first grade, so that they do not fail first grade and so that they do not get socially promoted. But the whole effort, and they tried to do it again this year, they said, numbers, numbers, numbers. The President said, I want more numbers, I want more numbers. We said, "Oh, no. Not until quality becomes the most important thing." And so we said the large percentage of any increase will go to improve the quality of Head Start. We want to make sure every child has an equal opportunity to succeed by the time they get to first grade. Higher ed, highest Pell grants ever. In higher ed, the lowest interest rates ever. All of these things are accomplishments that we brought not because of any leadership outside of this body but because we said that we are going to change things and we are going to change things to make sure that quality becomes the issue.

One hundred thousand new teachers. That \$1 billion, I think, buys about 40,000. But keep in mind, we had to fight the battle then to make sure that we are talking about all teachers, we are talking about special ed teachers, we are talking about teachers of special needs. We are saying it all goes down to the local level. "Washington, Mr. Secretary, you don't take any money off the top. You don't send any rules and regulations out there so they have to spend most of their money filling out application forms." And then we go one step further. We say, "State, nothing off the top, no rules and regulations from you down to the local level." They know what is best. They know what is most important, the people, the parents, the children, the teachers and the administration on the local level. That is what we are all about.

ON CONGRESS

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

Mr. WAMP. Mr. Speaker, other than the church and the family, I believe the United States Congress is the greatest institution in the world today and has been for a long time. The American people do not really know the details of what is going on up here over the last few days. They know the Congress is staying late to try to complete its work on reaching an agreement with the administration on the important budget for the next year and how we are going to spend their hard-earned tax dollars. But this afternoon on the way over here to vote, Mr. Speaker, I stopped on the lawn of the Capitol, took a deep breath of some really clean, crisp fall air on a beautiful sunny fall afternoon, looked at the glorious dome above this magnificent building and reflected a moment on what this really is all about in my heart. It is really about patriots wrestling with other patriots over their different approaches to the many challenges that we face as a people. Domestic challenges like education and drug abuse, challenges around the world militarily, economically. But it is really about good people trying to come to an agreement over issues that we share in common and challenges that we share in common. I was reminded of Winston Churchill. To paraphrase him he said, "This is the worst form of government imaginable, except for every other." What he meant is that sometimes it is difficult, sometimes it is painful, sometimes it is even messy. But it beats the heck out of everything else. It is still the way to do it, to settle our differences peacefully, without bloodshed, by freely electing our representatives and letting them be your voice through the debate, but at the end of the process come back together for the good of the greatest nation in the world and move forward. When

President Reagan was in the White House, he had a Democratic Congress, they went through the same process, regardless of what you have heard. This is nothing new really. It has been going on a long time. President Clinton is now in the White House with a Republican Congress. The same thing. You have to fight it out and at the end of the day reach a compromise, come to the middle, move the process forward.

So what is the bottom line with Congress about to adjourn for the end of the 105th? The bottom line is that the Congress is getting the job done. The bottom line is that the administration is getting the job done. In a few important days, the American people have a job to do and that is to exercise their privilege to participate and to vote and to freely elect their representatives to come here and hammer out these important decisions. This is really a great place, filled with good people. I wish each and every one of them all the best as they go back to spend some well-deserved time with the people that love them the most.

OMNIBUS SPENDING BILL CONTAINS ANTIDRUG PROVISIONS

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

Mr. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, in the big omnibus end-of-the-year bill that was agreed upon today between the White House and the Republican-controlled Congress that will be out here for a vote tomorrow are some very significant antidrug pieces of legislation. Ninety percent of the Western Hemisphere Drug Elimination Act which I authored and which was voted on overwhelmingly by this House a few weeks ago is incorporated in this bill. That means more than \$2 billion of money is being authorized for more planes, more ships, more equipment, more resources necessary to fight the war on drugs and to really have a war on drugs. In addition to that, \$690 million is included in what is known as an urgent supplemental appropriations bill that is included in all of this that will give us a jump start, a downpayment in this coming fiscal year for this equipment.

What is involved? Teen drug use has doubled in the United States in the last 6 years. Cocaine and heroin are more plentiful and cheaper on the streets of the United States today than ever at any time in our history. All of the cocaine is produced in three countries that comes our way, Colombia, Bolivia and Peru and more than 60 percent of the heroin is produced in Colombia that comes to the United States. Yet in the last 6 or 7 years, we have reduced the resources going to interdict these drugs coming our way to stop the supply coming here, by more than two-thirds. There is not a single plane or ship today in the eastern Pacific patrolling the waters and patrolling the

air looking for drugs that are coming up from Colombia to Mexico to the United States. That is wrong. It is very dangerous. It is very bad for our kids. There are no radar planes to speak of, or maybe one for half a day once a month gets to fly in the region looking for planes that are shipping drugs either between countries or to the United States.

This legislation that is in the bill we will vote on tomorrow will provide the planes that the Customs Service desperately needs for radar and to track those drug traffickers who are moving drugs in this hemisphere and it will provide the personnel and the fuel to do that over a 3-year period of time, very critical for this purpose. It will also provide cutters and additional patrol boats to the Coast Guard and personnel and equipment they badly need. It will provide new equipment to DEA to use in the three critical countries of Colombia, Bolivia and Peru, and perhaps as important as all, it will provide the governments of Colombia, Bolivia and Peru who do want to fight drug trafficking in their country the equipment and resources essential to fighting the traffickers and the resources for crop eradication of coca and heroin poppy crops as well as for crop substitution which in some cases has been sorely lacking. These resources are absolutely essential. If we provide them and do the right thing that this legislation sets out, we have a real chance to cut the flow of drugs coming into this country by a very significant percentage in the very near future and give our efforts at treatment and prevention a chance to succeed.

I want to yield to the gentleman from Ohio who has authored the companion legislation that is in here on prevention and treatment to comment on that legislation.

Mr. PORTMAN. I really appreciate my friend from Florida yielding. I want to commend him for all the hard work he has done on this issue. He has really taken the lead on trying to curb the supply of drugs into this country which he has just said is so important. We have had a doubling of teenage drug use in the last 5 or 6 years. More and more kids are falling prey to this, ruining their lives and their dreams and even taking the lives of so many of our young people. What I am excited about in this final package we will vote on tomorrow is that we also have provisions to reduce the demand for drugs in this country. This problem I think ultimately has to be solved around the kitchen table in our homes and in our schools and in our streets.

There are a number of provisions that I like. One is new provisions to get the drugs out of our schools, to use the drug-free school money better in the workplace, the Drug Free Workplace Act that the gentleman supported which essentially gives small businesses the opportunity to get up and running drug free workplace programs that will keep people away from drugs