

Member, Delegate, or Resident Commissioner to introduce to or bring to the attention of the House an occupant of the galleries of the House.

STOP THE RAID ON SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE TRUST FUNDS

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

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, the Administration's new budget is wrapped in the flag. Literally. It has a beautiful red, white and blue cover. But the fine print inside should be written mostly in red ink. Contrary to one pledge after another, from one Administration official after another, this plan rejects a balanced budget in favor of a "borrow and spend" approach.

The central principle on which this budget relies is to take payroll taxes right out of the pocket of employees around this country—on their hard-earned wages that they paid in, thinking it was going for Social Security and Medicare—and uses them for something other than Social Security and Medicare.

This raid on Social Security is not only fiscally irresponsible, it not only shifts the cost of what we are doing now to our children and our grandchildren, but it could well produce a direct cut in Social Security and Medicare benefits. It is wrong; it is misguided. This "borrow and spend" approach should be rejected.

REDUCE POVERTY ALONG WITH WELFARE ROLLS

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, as we move towards reauthorization of TANF, I am pleased to join with my colleagues this morning in a discussion of welfare reform. We must focus on reducing poverty as well as reducing the welfare rolls.

Although welfare rolls are down nearly 50 percent in 5 years, many former recipients have been pushed into low-wage jobs that keep them in poverty. Families cannot be economically secure without work that pays a living wage.

We need to reduce poverty, not just caseloads, by focusing on employment that will lift families out of poverty and really make work pay. Therefore, one of the best ways to reduce poverty is to raise the minimum wage to a livable wage. Let us make this a part of welfare reform.

WELFARE REAUTHORIZATION

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

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, as Congress takes up the reauthorization of the welfare law this year, we must fashion a truly successful welfare system, one which does not abandon people who need help.

Most families who have worked their way off welfare are far from achieving self-sufficiency and are still living in poverty. We must return to making poverty reduction an explicit goal of welfare reform.

Many ex-welfare recipients have been unable to pay rent, buy food or afford medical care. In 1999, even in the midst of an economic boom, ex-welfare recipients who worked earn an average of nearly \$7,200 a year, approximately \$6,000 below the poverty line for a family of three. The success or failure of welfare reform cannot be measured solely by whether caseloads decline; lower welfare case leads must reflect the integration of former welfare recipients into our economic system.

If, on the other hand, lower caseloads only reflect a benefit cutoff in which people disappear from the system without help, an adequate safety net, then welfare reform must be viewed as a failure.

I commend my good friend, the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Mrs. MINK), for introducing H.R. 3113.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS TO SUSPEND THE RULES

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 342 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 342

Resolved, That it shall be in order at any time on the legislative day of Wednesday, February 6, 2002, for the Speaker to entertain motions that the House suspend the rules relating to the following measures:

(1) The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 312) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the scheduled tax relief provided for by the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001 passed by a bipartisan majority in Congress should not be suspended or repealed.

(2) The joint resolution (H.J. Res. 82) recognizing the 91st birthday of Ronald Reagan.

(3) The resolution (H. Res. 340) recognizing and honoring Jack Shea, Olympic gold medalist in speed skating, for his many contributions to the Nation and to his community throughout his life.

THE SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

(Mr. HASTINGS of Washington asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, this resolution provides that it shall be in order at any time on the legislative day of Wednesday, February 6, 2002, for the Speaker to entertain motions that the House suspend the rules relating to the following measures: the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 312, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the scheduled tax relief provided for by the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001, passed by a bipartisan majority in Congress, should not be suspended or repealed;

Second, the joint resolution, H.J. Res. 82, recognizing the 91st birthday of our 40th President, Ronald Reagan; and,

Three, the resolution, H. Res. 340, recognizing and honoring Jack Shea, Olympic gold medalist in speed skating, for his many contributions to the Nation and to his community throughout his life.

Mr. Speaker, following the adoption of this rule, the House will take up H. Con. Res. 312, expressing our collective will that the bipartisan tax relief plan passed by the Congress and signed into law by President Bush should take effect as scheduled.

Recently, several Members of Congress have proposed that key provisions of the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act should be repealed, delayed, or postponed. H. Con. Res. 312 reiterates our full commitment to all tax relief provisions in this act, including the across-the-board tax cuts, the marriage penalty relief, the elimination of the death tax, doubling of the per-child tax credit and IRA expansion.

Further, H. Con. Res. 312 states that repealing or delaying provisions of President Bush's tax relief plan would in fact constitute a tax increase; that increasing taxes during a recession would hurt the economy and American workers; and that Congress should work with the President to promote long-term economic growth through a fair Tax Code that puts the least possible burden on taxpayers.

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Mr. Speaker, last June when the President signed into law the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001, it provided millions of American taxpayers with the first meaningful tax relief they had had since 1981.

All Americans who pay Federal income taxes have benefited from the act and will benefit from our vote today, making it clear that we have no intention of weakening or softening in any way our commitment to provide the relief that they were promised, especially not now, when to do so would weaken the economy and further endanger the well-being of millions of lower- and middle-income American workers and their families.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this rule so