

10 of IMAAW, AFL-CIO, and he was named Assistant Director in 1981, rising to Director in 1994.

In addition to Tom's active involvement in Local 2110, he holds the distinction of having been a leader at all levels of the labor movement. Tom has been the stalwart head of the union's state organization for over two decades. He is currently the President of the Wisconsin State Council of Machinists, a position he has held since 1982. Prior to that, he served as Financial Secretary to the Council. Active at the county level as well, he served on the Milwaukee County Labor Council Board for 13 years until leaving in 1994. And even with all he has been doing these days, Tom has also taken up the cause for workers across the nation, maintaining a position on the AFL-CIO Executive Board and Executive Committee.

Tom has served on the boards of many other worthy community and labor organizations over the years, including the Red Cross, the United Way Labor Cabinet, Guide Dogs of America, and the Wisconsin Labor-Management Council, just to name a few. But most recently, he has been the driving force behind a broad labor-management effort to come up with possible solutions to the critical problem of rising healthcare costs in our state. His personal involvement in spearheading this initiative can, in large part, be credited for the productive dialogue and progress they've made.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join with me in thanking Tom Lesch for his tenacity and willingness to hold out for the rights and living standards of the people he represented. His leadership was felt by all, and has left its mark on the ongoing struggle for the cause of working men and women. Along with the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers and the entire Wisconsin labor community, I wish him a long, healthful, and well-deserved retirement.

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS
ON THE BUDGET

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 2, 2003

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the budget. When the

President took office two years ago the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) projected a ten-year budget surplus of \$5.6 trillion. Now CBO projects a \$1.8 billion deficit over the same time period.

As our nation's men and women are on the frontlines of a war in Iraq, the Republican budget cuts funds for the nation's veterans. As we talk about rebuilding and constructing schools in Iraq through the Wartime Appropriations Supplemental, we have not fully funded our own educational priorities here at home. This budget, in particular, hurts African Americans.

The Members of this Congress must not forget about the neediest Americans who will see services simply erased under the Republican's budget. In my district, as in so many others, the unemployment rate is not improving.

Yet the Republican budget proposal provides no extension of unemployment benefits for the one million Americans who have run out of federal benefits. The Republican plan also fails to create new jobs that would allow the currently unemployed to take care of their families.

Republicans are short changing vital priorities. With their budget proposals the President and the Republicans have shown their dedication to cutting taxes for the very wealthy.

The posture of the Republican majority decrees that there should be an end to Federal responsibility for domestic programs and an end to safety net compassion as we know it.

The Republican majority has snatched off their mask of patronizing charity and phony concern. Contempt for the poor is no longer camouflaged. By their current actions the Republicans have thrown a searing spotlight of exposure on their deep-seated belief that the nation, the government is primarily a structure for the protection of the privileges and interests of the rich. For Republicans the tax cuts have suddenly become the mission and purpose of this 2004 budget and this nation.

Our domestic priorities: Medicaid, Medicare, education, and benefits for veterans are underfunded in this budget. We must invest in people capital—our children, our poor, and our ill.

We do not know how much the war will cost, how long our soldiers will be fighting in the region, and how this war will impact our economy. Already, oil prices have risen and the stock market is uncertain in the face of this crisis.

We have been presented with a budget that cuts key domestic priorities and once again includes irresponsible accounting methods. It cuts domestic programs in a Draconian fashion.

We must make a commitment and investment in the education of our nation's children. Programs like Title I, which provides funds to impoverished school districts across the nation, would be cut under this budget.

We passed a landmark education law last year to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act—now it is time to fund these programs fully, if we are serious about improving our nation's schools.

This budget cuts important higher education programs like the Pell Grant. The budget provides only \$22.6 billion for programs under the No Child Left Behind Act, which is \$9 billion below the amount authorized for 2004 and \$199 million below the amount needed to maintain programs and services at the 2002 level.

The budget continues the theme of the previous budget by eliminating many education programs, freezing most others at the level in the 2003 continuing resolution and increasing funding for just a few programs such as special education and Title I. Education is critical to our country's growth.

In my 18th Congressional District in Houston, some of the nation's most under-funded schools rely on Title I funds to supplement state and local funding. It is absolutely unconscionable to cut this program.

The Republican budget cuts \$215 billion in Medicare, Medicaid, school lunches and student loans, agriculture, and veterans' programs.

As the nation's unemployment rate remains at critically high levels, millions of Americans lack access to health care, education continues to be woefully underfunded, and veterans' benefits are cut, we must remember our moral obligation to our poor, disabled, children, and veterans. This Republican budget does not.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, April 3, 2003 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

APRIL 7

1:30 p.m.

Appropriations
Energy and Water Development Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2004 for the Department Energy's Office of Environmental Management and Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management.

SD-124

APRIL 8

9:30 a.m.

Foreign Relations
To resume hearings to examine NATO enlargement.

SD-419

Governmental Affairs
Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia Subcommittee

To hold joint hearings with the House Subcommittee on Civil Service and Agency Organization to examine the federal government's strategic human capital management and consider pending legislation on the federal workforce.

SD-342

Rules and Administration
To hold oversight hearings to examine the operations of the Sergeant at Arms, the Library of Congress and the Congressional Research Service.

SR-301

10 a.m.

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
To hold oversight hearings to examine the impact of proposed RESPA rule on small business and consumers.

SD-538

Appropriations
Commerce, Justice, State, and the Judiciary Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2004 for the Securities and Exchange Commission.

S-146 Capitol

Energy and Natural Resources
Business meeting to consider comprehensive energy legislation.

SD-366

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine proposed legislation authorizing funds for programs of the Mammography Quality Standards Act, focusing on patient access to quality health care.

SD-430

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine S.J. Res. 1, proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to protect the rights of crime victims.

SD-226

2 p.m.

Environment and Public Works
Clean Air, Climate Change, and Nuclear Safety Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine S. 485, to amend the Clean Air Act to reduce air pollution through expansion of cap and trade programs, to provide an alternative regulatory classification for units subject to the cap and trade program.

SD-406

Appropriations

Homeland Security Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine the fiscal year 2004 Emergency Preparedness and Response Budget Overview.

SD-124

2:30 p.m.

Foreign Relations
International Economic Policy, Export and Trade Promotion Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine global energy security issues.

SD-419

APRIL 9

9:30 a.m.

Foreign Relations
Business meeting to consider proposed legislation entitled "Foreign Relations Authorization Act", to authorize appropriations for the Department of State, and United States international broadcasting activities.

SD-419

Appropriations
Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2004 for the Department of Labor.

SD-138

10 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources
Business meeting to consider comprehensive energy legislation.

SD-366

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
Business meeting to consider proposed legislation entitled "The Improved Vaccine Affordability and Availability Act" and pending nominations.

SD-430

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of R. Hewitt Pate, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Attorney General, and Diane M. Stuart, of Utah, to be Director of the Violence Against Women Office, Department of Justice.

SD-226

1:30 p.m.

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
To hold hearings to examine the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Threat.

SD-430

2 p.m.

Appropriations
Transportation, Treasury and General Government Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2004 for the Internal Revenue Service.

SD-124

2:30 p.m.

Armed Services
Readiness and Management Support Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine proposed legislation authorizing funds fiscal year 2004 for the Department of Defense, focusing on the readiness of the military services to conduct current operations and execute contingency plans.

SR-222

3:30 p.m.

Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Joseph LeBaron, of Oregon, to be Ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, Gregory W. Engle, of Colorado, to be Ambassador to the Togolese Republic, Wayne E. Neill, of Nevada, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Benin, and Helen R. Meagher La Lime, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Mozambique.

SD-419

4:30 p.m.

Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Heather M. Hodges, of Ohio, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Moldova, Eric S. Edelman, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Turkey, Ralph Frank, of Washington, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Croatia, Reno L. Harnish, of California, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Azerbaijan, and Stephen D. Mull, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Lithuania.

SD-419

APRIL 10

9 a.m.

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
To hold hearings to examine the teaching of American history and civics in the classroom.

SD-430

9:30 a.m.

Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Peter Eide, of Maryland, to be General Counsel of the Federal Labor Relations Authority.

SD-342

10 a.m.

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
To hold hearings to examine recent developments in Hedge Funds.

SD-538

Energy and Natural Resources
Business meeting to consider comprehensive energy legislation.

SD-366

Joint Economic Committee
To hold hearings to examine Medicare's financial crisis, focusing on the long-term financial viability of the program, proposals to add a prescription drug benefit and other reforms.

SD-562

1:30 p.m.

Appropriations
Legislative Branch Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2004 for the Library of Congress and the Open World Leadership Center.

SD-116

APRIL 29

10 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources
Business meeting to consider comprehensive energy legislation.

SD-366