

have never worked out to him receiving the kind of money that he would have been able to get through Social Security.

So it may sound good that you are making a lot of money every year that, hey, I will get a little extra and put that in the market too. But what about those people who are struggling now more than ever, making 19, 20, 25, \$30,000 a year. Four percent of that is peanuts to say that you will be able to retire on.

So as we have this debate about the personal accounts, I think it is very important for us to recognize that diverting 4 percent of your Social Security taxes into this is never going to be enough for this to retire on.

□ 2045

That was really the only point I wanted to make here. I want to thank the gentleman for joining us. Throughout, since I have been here, he has been the guru on the budget. We all follow his lead. So I thank him very much.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, we have about 3 minutes left. So if the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SPRATT) wants to make some closing comments, he can.

Mr. SPRATT. Mr. Speaker, there is one thing we have not spoken about. We have talked about the budget deficit. We did not speak about the trade deficit, \$666 billion, also an encumbrance we are leaving our children. We did not talk about the jobs deficit. In the last recession, 2.5 million manufacturing jobs, the best of our jobs, were lost, that have not come back. Service jobs have but not manufacturing jobs.

One of the solutions to all of this has got to be education. We have got to have a workforce that is educated as never before in American history, adaptable, keen, intelligent, quantitative, and if we look at the budget the President sent us for the first time since 1988, a President of the United States requested less for spending on education than we are currently spending at the present time.

He wipes out vocational education, \$1.3 billion. Wipes out the drug free schools. Wipes out GEAR UP for underprivileged kids who want to get a college education. Wipes out Even Start. Wipes out educational technology.

There are some plusses and puts and takes so that a lot of these do not come out on the bottom line, but when we consider everything, this is the least forthcoming education request at a time when education was never needed as much as it is now. So we have got an education deficit as well.

That is why we are out here tonight, to talk about the 20-somethings and the 30-somethings and what they can expect for the future of America. We have got deficits, which means that we are leaving negative legacies in numerous different areas that we have got to reverse, we have got to undo, and it starts with the budget. We simply cannot keep stacking up mountains of

debt which we shove off into the future for our children to pay.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. I thank the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SPRATT). I yield to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ).

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I just appreciate the gentleman from South Carolina's (Mr. SPRATT) and the gentleman from Florida's (Mr. MEEK) leadership and the opportunity for us to help explain to our generation what the ramifications will be if the President's proposal goes through. I think it is real important that we plug the Web site, and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MEEK) has it up here on the board.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. We even want e-mails from Members, but definitely from the American people and others. 30somethingdems@mail.house.gov is our e-mail address. We always look forward to receiving e-mails.

As we close, I just want to not only commend the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SPRATT) for his leadership but for the leadership of this Democratic Caucus here in the 109th Congress and the 108th Congress, which I have served in, and presently serving in the 109th, for standing up and saying what is right, making sure that we watch out for future generations; just for the charts that are being generated out of the gentleman from South Carolina's (Mr. SPRATT) committee staff and from the gentleman, I tell the American people and also I tell Members of the majority side, if it is about defense, then 44 percent of our debt is owned by foreign countries, up drastically since President Bush has taken office.

This chart that the gentleman showed dealing with retired workers of 62.8 percent that is dealing with Social Security, that the benefits they are receiving, 13 percent of workers that have disabilities. I mean, these are real issues that are facing families in America right now, and this is a moral issue as the gentleman mentioned.

Spouses with children, 10.1 percent, and survivor benefits, the highest outside of retired workers, 14.1 percent. These are individuals that their loved ones, mothers and fathers, have passed on, and they are living on the benefits that they left behind. Sometimes that is all they had to leave. The most shocking chart that the gentleman provided to all of us here is how the benefit structure goes down, 34,587 cut.

I want to thank the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), the Democratic leader, once again for allowing us to have this time.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1544, FASTER AND SMARTER FUNDING FOR FIRST RESPONDERS ACT OF 2005

Mr. SESSIONS (during the Special Order of Mr. MEEK of Florida) from the

Committee on Rules submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 109-77) on the resolution (H. Res. 269) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1544) to provide faster and smarter funding for first responders, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1279, GANG DETERRENCE AND COMMUNITY PROTECTION ACT OF 2005

Mr. SESSIONS (during the Special Order of Mr. MEEK of Florida) from the Committee on Rules submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 109-76) on the resolution (H. Res. 268) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1279) to amend title 18, United States Code, to reduce violent gang crime and protect law-abiding citizens and communities from violent criminals and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

FURTHER MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A further message from the Senate by Mr. Monahan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate agreed to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendments of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 1268) "An Act Making Emergency Supplemental Appropriations for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Tsunami Relief, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes."

The message also announced that the Senate has agreed to without amendment concurrent resolutions of the House of the following titles:

H. Con. Res. 26. Concurrent resolution honoring the Tuskegee Airmen for their bravery in fighting for our freedom in World War II, and for their contribution in creating an integrated United States Air Force.

H. Con. Res. 127. Concurrent resolution calling on the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to transfer Charles Ghankay Taylor, former President of the Republic of Liberia, to the Special Court for Sierra Leone to be tried for war crimes, crimes against humanity, and other serious violations of international humanitarian law.

The message also announced that the Senate has agreed to a concurrent resolution of the following title:

S. Con. Res. 31. Concurrent resolution to correct the enrollment of H.R. 1268.

EDUCATION IN THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MARCHANT). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be here. I am pleased to follow the 30-Somethings, although I am a