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No. 41

House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m.

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
April 4, 2006.

I hereby appoint the Honorable TIM MURPHY to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 31, 2006, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 30 minutes, and each Member, except the majority leader, the minority leader, or the minority whip, limited to not to exceed 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) for 5 minutes.

ADMINISTRATION SHOVELS

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, well, it is budget week here in Washington and on the Republican side of the aisle they are issuing shovels.

Now, the shovels here in Washington have two purposes. One is to shovel certain substances to obscure what they are really doing, and the other is to dig the debt hole of the United States of America, the indebtedness of the American people, yet deeper while languishing programs that are important to average folks while the wealthy get more.

This budget would reserve substantial funding for tax cuts for the richest

among us. It would reserve tax cuts so that we can extend the tax where people who own stock that pays dividends would pay a much lower rate of tax than an American who works for, say, \$30,000 a year in wages and salary.

It would extend the capital gains tax cuts which again primarily benefit people over \$300,000 a year. For someone who earns, 50, \$60,000 a year, the average tax break in capital gains is \$50 since we exempt people's principal residence. That is where most middle class people have their capital. They do not have a whole lot of other investments. They are kind of struggling to get by. This budget is not going to help.

This budget would borrow every penny. We are taxing working people more than we need to collect money for Social Security. The theory is that money is being set aside to pay for the retirement of the baby boom, the coming change in the demographics of the society, the crisis the President talked about in funding Social Security.

Well, what are the President and Republicans doing with the \$192 billion extra we will collect in Social Security taxes this year only from people who earn \$94,000 a year or less? They are going to spend it. They are going to spend part of it on tax cuts for people who earn a heck of a lot more than \$94,000 a year.

This deficit-producing budget is going to do an incredible disservice to our Nation. It will give us a new record and, of course, there have been many records under the Bush administration, and this will set the record of the five consecutive years of largest deficits in the history of the United States, from the small government folks down there at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.

Now, true, a lot of it is done in emergency supplementals. They cannot anticipate. This budget, for instance, says, unlike the President who says it will be a future President who decides when and if the United States with-

draws from Iraq, the Republican budget, as honest as the day is long, says that we will spend \$50 billion next year on Iraq and Afghanistan. Of course, that is quite a bit less than half of what we spent this year. So maybe they know something the President does not know and America does not know about the withdrawal timetable, or maybe it is more dishonest book-keeping where we will have yet another unanticipated expense for the war in Iraq and the ongoing problems of pacifying Afghanistan.

So this budget is rife with these sorts of things. The total deficit this year will be \$543 billion, including borrowing \$192 billion of hard-earned money that is going to pay for supposedly future Social Security retirement. And over 5 years they are going to raise the debt of the United States of America. Again, it has been raised. Four times in the last 5 years, the debt ceiling has been raised. It is a 65 percent increase in the indebtedness of the United States of America.

This President has accumulated more foreign debt than the 42 Presidents that preceded him in office. Record after record after record is falling to the Republican leadership and the Republicans in the White House, something that they can be proud of. All so they can feed tax cuts for people who earn over a million bucks a year. That is really a great way to run a country.

They are anticipating with this budget, again even with dishonest book-keeping, that we will be up to \$11.3 trillion of debt by 2011. That would be about \$27,000 for every American. \$27,000 of debt. That would have more than doubled the debt since George Bush took office. Doubling the debt in that short period of time is, again, quite an accomplishment. It took 42 Presidents and more than 200 years to accumulate a significant debt and the President is going to manage to double it in a mere 5 years.

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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So hopefully we can take away the shovels, we can pull aside the veils, we can reveal to America what is going on and we can pass a budget that meets the priorities of the American people, not a privileged few.

PUBLIC BROADCASTING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 31, 2006, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, more than 87 million Americans tune into public television each week and 30 million listen to public radio. And they depend on this Congress to provide some of the economic resources so that in every community across the country people can listen to those thousand public radio and television stations for programs that inform and inspire.

For help with reading, job training, for the latest digital services, for local news and information, for dozens of other reasons. These stations around the country determine their own program schedules. They often produce their own programming. We, in Oregon, are immensely proud of Oregon Public Broadcasting for its award winning programming. They respond to community needs and leverage local support that is so important.

While the Corporation for Public Broadcasting distributes its annual appropriations from Congress in accordance to a statutory formula for which almost 72 percent of the funds go directly to local public radio and television stations, the Federal appropriations while it only accounts for 15 percent of the entire costs, it leverages critical investments from State and local governments, from universities, businesses and foundations, and most important, from millions of viewers and listeners of public television and radio. They add their dollars to this core vital Federal support, writing checks to allow the public broadcasting to continue. However, we have faced issues of major reduction in this funding which would have immediate and severe impacts on our community and constituents.

Last month, 126 bipartisan Members signed a letter in support for \$430 million in funding for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. This is a modest amount by reckoning of the vast sums that are thrown around here in Washington, DC, but it has a critical impact. It is going to be essential that we provide the core funding for the Corporation For Public Broadcasting and hopefully retain the practice of advanced funding which costs the Treasury nothing but gives public broadcasting certainty over time so that they can plan on allowing for the changes and development that they need.

There has been a modest request that has been suggested, \$30 million above

the fiscal 2006 funding. This is going to not even cover the additional electricity costs that public television must bear to operate both a digital and analogue transmitter. That transition to digital technology is also important for Congress to focus on. It is not cheap.

Public broadcasting has led the way. They have raised more than \$1.1 billion from all sources for this purpose. We are asking for a little additional money, an increase of \$10 million this year. This can have a critical impact, not just on the clarity of the broadcast that is received by people in their homes, but there is also an opportunity to replace and update the television interconnection system, known as the Next Generation Interconnection System, that the Department of Homeland Security has been testing as a foundation for a new digital emergency alert system. Not just better service for people at home, but an important potential addition to our homeland security.

Last but by no means least deals with educational technology. In the No Child Left Behind legislation passed in 2001, Congress authorized two programs, Ready to Learn and Ready to Teach. Ready to Learn harnesses television's universal reach to improve early childhood learning, while Ready to Teach uses technology to develop more highly-qualified teachers to measurably increase student standards. It is important to make sure that we support Ready to Learn, which received a small increase last year, focused on literacy and teacher professional development. Ready to Teach last year actually sustained a cut. It is requested that funding for both programs be increased in fiscal 2007 to \$32 million for Ready to Learn and \$15 million for Ready to Teach.

Last year we had to come to the floor with a strong bipartisan vote where 87 Republicans joined with every single Democrat to restore Draconian cuts to public broadcasting. This year it is more important than ever for education, for the Public Broadcasting Service, and for national security that we not have to go through that effort.

I urge my colleagues to look carefully at the requests that have been made for public broadcasting and join with us this year in assuring a strong funding base that will leverage hundreds of millions of dollars across America and provide the services Americans deserve.

REMEMBERING MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 31, 2006, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, 38 years ago Martin Luther King, Jr., was taken by from us by an assassin's bullets. He had gone to Memphis, Tennessee to call for economic justice for

working people in America and for the sanitation workers there.

Mr. Speaker, it is difficult for me to find the right words to express my feelings about Martin Luther King, Jr. He was a man, my friend. He was my inspiration, my leader, my colleague, and my brother.

Martin Luther King, Jr., more than any other American of the 20th century had the power to bring people together to do good, black and white, rich and poor, young and old, Protestant, Catholic and Jews.

He could inspire with his words, with his vision, and his leadership. He could fill ordinary people with the extraordinary vision that they had the power to build a new, more fair, more just America.

His message was love. His weapon was truth. His method was creative nonviolence. And his goal, Mr. Speaker, was the Beloved Community, a community of justice, a Nation at peace with itself. In a sense he spoke a strange language, a philosophy of passive resistance to evil and the use of nonviolence in the struggle for good.

He was far too advanced in his concepts of love and peace for the violent times in which he lived, perhaps too advanced for us to understand even today. But, Mr. Speaker, the assassins of Martin Luther King, Jr., did not kill the dream of peace. They did not kill the dream of an open society. They did not kill the dream of a Beloved Community.

The movement that Martin Luther King, Jr., led was too right. It was too necessary to be buried with his body. We know that his voice was stilled 38 years ago today, but his message of love, of peace, and of the good society continue to resonate all around the world.

Mr. Speaker, we here in the people's House, we know that Dr. King's dream has not been fulfilled. But that is why it must be our task to renew our commitment to the values of his vision, the values of peace, love and justice.

If Dr. King were here today he would say we must find a way to support courageous legislation, legislation that will redirect the priorities and the tremendous resources of this Nation, not to oppress but to uplift, not to divide but to bring together, not to enslave but to set free. He would say we must use the resources of this great Nation, our talents, our minds, and our votes to work for the good of all humankind.

Through the life of Martin Luther King, Jr., through his noble efforts, he injected new meaning and new dignity into the very veins of our society. We are a better people. We are a better Nation because he lived.

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GLOBAL WARMING

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MURPHY). Pursuant to the order of the House of January 31, 2006, the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL)