Unfriendly, childless, careless, that is what the Republicans are doing with the budget impasse; $270 billion in tax cuts for the rich, and then a welfare bill that misrepresents to the American people that the Republicans want real welfare reform. No; this legislation will not correct the welfare crises. This Republican legislation takes the safety net away from innocent children.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to stand up for the children.

LIBERAL EXTREMISM

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

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, yesterday during special orders I heard the gentlewoman from Connecticut [Ms. DELAURO] call our 7-year, $245 billion tax cut massive. And I looked at the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Mr. Speaker, and I cannot find a single instance in which the gentlewoman used the word ''massive'' to describe Bill Clinton's 1993 7-year tax hike of $400 billion.

In fact, she was a vocal advocate of that plan. She described it as ''courageous, responsible, a bold initiative,'' and my favorite, ''serious change.''

Now, let me repeat this, Mr. Speaker, because I think it is important for the American people to understand where the Democrats are coming from philosophically. The liberal extremists criticize a $245 billion tax cut by calling it massive, but they call a $400 billion tax increase ''serious change.''

When it comes to letting the American people keep more of what they have earned, the liberal extremists are morally offended. But when it comes to the Government confiscating more and more money from those who have earned it, they pat themselves on the back for their courage.

REPUBLICAN RHETORIC

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

Mr. KLINK. Mr. Speaker, to the previous speaker I would mention that we had in 1993 a $250 billion tax increase and a $250 billion cut in spending. And that did something very historical. It brought down the deficit for 3 consecutive years. We have cut in half what was almost a $300-billion-a-year deficit, without one Republican vote.

Now we are arguing about balancing the budget. We took the vote to bring the budget much closer to balance, and the stock market reacted correctly. Employment was created in this Nation. All of the things that the naysayers on the GOP side of this House were saying were going to happen after 1993 never occurred. Not one of them has occurred.

As a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, I have noticed that since the GOP is in control of this House, not one of those massive tax increases that they complain about have they rescinded. Not one of them have they rescinded. So the rhetoric is getting a little thick and America is beginning to notice.

PARTIAL SHUTDOWN II

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

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, yesterday morning there was a ray of promise. Yesterday afternoon that promise evaporated. The country cries out for a balanced budget agreement now; 260,000 Federal employees have been furloughed.

The good news is that yesterday we obtained a commitment from the Speaker and the Senate majority leader that all furloughed employees, those who are not working, will be paid. And, indeed, that is correct and it is the proper thing to do. These employees and their families should not be the victims of budget gridlock. They want to work. This is not an extended vacation. They are frustrated and anxious about their fate.

I do want to point out there are a lot of other consequences to this partial shutdown. Important research grants at NIH are not being processed. I have heard from employees who are missing important deadlines because they cannot go to work. They are frustrated and point out important work is not being done.

Each day of the shutdown 2,500 families will not be able to close on their mortgages, 260 businesses that receive SBA loans will not receive the financing they have been counting on. So many examples. This says let us resolve this impasse and do the job we were sent here to do.

'TWAS THE HOLIDAY SEASON

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

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker:

'Twas the holiday season, and all through the House,
Any hopes for a budget, the Speaker did douse.
But the PAC checks were tacked to the chimney with care,
In hopes that a tax cut soon would be there.
With Bill in discussions, but Newt's jaws aflap,
Our nation's fine workers must just take a nap.
When what to our wondering eyes should appear,
But GOP leaders spreading more fear:
Senior citizens, women and children disabled,
It seems any help for you soon will be tabled.
Please don't be mad, but you're taking the fall,
So the wealthiest wealthy can soon have it all.
We Democrats greeted this warning with ire,
But Newt and his friends want cuts even higher.
So to every American watching tonight,
Be assured all this the Democrats will fight.

SECRETARY OF LABOR NEEDS TO GET OUT IN THE REAL WORLD

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

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Mr. Speaker, here is what the Secretary of Labor said this morning on C-SPAN. ''This debate is not being driven by economic issues.'' I now know why the Secretary works for the Government. Everybody in the real world knows that a $4.9 trillion debt, that $200 billion deficits and that deficits as far out as the eye can see, those are economic issues.

The Secretary then goes on to moan that Federal workers cannot volunteer, at the same time his department has been shutting down Salvation Army bell ringers. Let us have some consistency.

Mr. Secretary, get out of the Washington puzzle palace into the real world. It will give you a better perspective on the issues and the solutions that we need to be making in America today.

SUPPORT THE COALITION BUDGET

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

Mr. PAYNE of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, sometimes the answers to our problems are so obvious that we miss them entirely. That is exactly what is happening right now with this budget stalemate. The conservative Democratic coalition has created a budget that is simple. It eliminates the major stumbling blocks to a 7-year balanced budget. It asks each of us to do exactly what the American people want us to do, that is to compromise, to work together, to get the job done. It asks my Republican colleagues and the American people to forego tax cuts until we get at this balanced budget. It asks Medicare beneficiaries and their champions in Congress to recognize that Medicare has grown at an unsustainable rate and we must curb the growth of this and other entitlement programs. Yet it does not contain the kind of large Medicare cuts that have sparked so much partisan rancor here in Congress. It cuts the deficit faster and deeper than the Republican budget and it is the one budget that is balanced in 7 years according to CBO and occupies a sensible middle ground.

Mr. Speaker, that is where the American people are. So let us end this business as usual. Let us summon the political courage to do the right thing. Let us take some risks for a balanced budget. Let us pass this coalition budget.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT MEMORIAL COMMISSION

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CHAMBLISS). Without objection, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 84–372, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment to the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial Commission the following Members of the House:

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania and Mr. HINCHEY of New York.

There was no objection.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1655, INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1996

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 318 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 318

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 1655) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 1996 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes. All points of order against the conference report and against its consideration are waived. The conference report shall be considered as read.

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from California [Mr. BEILENSON], 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. Speaker, this is an appropriate rule for a conference report and I am delighted to bring it to the House so that we may expeditiously consider the intelligence authorization conference report for fiscal year 1996. This rule waives all points of order against the conference report and against its consideration, and I would like to commend Chairman COMBEST and his staff for diligently providing our Rules Committee with detailed information about the types of waivers that this bill requires. In addition this rule provides that the conference report shall be considered as read.

Mr. Speaker, as a conferee who worked on this bill, I am very proud of our final product. Members should know that, despite all the partisan rhetoric that's been flying in this Capitol in recent weeks, this legislation is the product of bipartisan cooperation in the finest tradition of this House. Oversight of intelligence policy and implementation of crucial national security programs are very, very serious subjects and its oversight is taken very seriously. The Members of the House Committee on Intelligence, and our counterparts in the other body, sorted through a multitude of complex and vexing problems in order to complete this conference report. Although it is fashionable in today's environment to bash the intelligence agencies and complain about problems that have come to light, I think most Americans realize that today's highly complicated and chaotic world demands that our policymakers have accurate and timely information—perhaps more so in this modern information age than in any other time in our history. Of course, we must ensure that we learn from the mistakes of the past—the highly public mistakes we've all read about—so that we don't make such mistakes again. And we must also ensure that our finite resources are being put to their most effective and appropriate use and, frankly, that is what this bill is about. My colleagues, this process of review and assessment won't stop there. Our committee is undertaking a comprehensive review of our intelligence capabilities and how they can carry us into the next century; and I am proud to be a part of that effort under Mr. COMBEST's and ranking member DICK's leadership. Likewise, the former Aspin Commission—now known as the Brown Commission—is conducting a major review at direction of Congress. As a member of both those efforts, I assure my colleagues that this important subject is being carefully addressed and we will have reports to you back next spring. As an important piece of that whole picture, I urge my colleagues to support this rule and support the conference report on H.R. 1655.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BEILENSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I thank the gentleman from Florida [Mr. GOSS] for yielding the customary 30 minutes of debate time to me.

Mr. Speaker, we support this rule for the consideration of the conference report for the Intelligence Authorization Act for fiscal year 1996. There was no objection from the minority on the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence to the waivers that the rule provides for the conference report, and we do not oppose them.

Among the potential points of order that are protected against are those for violations of scope, germaneness requirements, prohibition on appropriations in a legislative bill, and the Budget Act requirements. The rule is, of course, waiving the 3-day layover requirement. We are reluctant, ordinarily, to provide that particular waiver, because we believe Members should have ample time to review the legislation they are voting on, but we did agree in this instance this particular waiver of the 3-day layover rule is not at all unreasonable.

□ 1045

Mr. Speaker, the minority on the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence supports the substance of the conference agreements. I am sure we will hear more about the provisions of the agreement during the debate on the conference report itself that will follow.

The original House bill did, however, contain several controversial provisions, including the handling of certain National Reconnaissance Office activities. Because of their classified status, these issues cannot be discussed in detail, but Members should be aware that the chairman described those changes as the only major departure in the bill from the administration's request for the National Foreign Intelligence Program.

During House consideration of the bill, the minority on the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence expressed the hope that the reservations about the NRO would be addressed in the conference on this legislation with the Senate. We trust that they were addressed satisfactorily.

We were also concerned about the limit the committee place on spending for carrying out the President's Executive order of April 17 of this year that prescribes a uniform system for classifying and declassifying national security information.

The President has properly recognized the need to ensure that Americans know about the activities of their Government, when it is possible to make that information public. We continue to believe that a carefully prescribed system is long overdue for declassifying documents that remain classified for no reason other than inertia.

The debate over the cost of compliance with the Executive order was the main obstacle to implementation of that Executive order. We understand that the conference agreement provides more flexibility than the House bill from the several intelligence agencies in carrying out this Executive order, and we support that decision.

We are also supportive of the conferees' decision to tighten up the change in the National Security Act that would allow the President to delay the imposition of economic sanctions against a foreign country in certain cases. We understand that minority Members who raised concerns about that provision agree with the conference report action in this respect.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, we understand that the conference committee agreed to increase the authorization for the environmental task force, which has been successful in making environmental information derived from intelligence more accessible to the general public and to the scientific community.

We had been very concerned about the level of funding for the task force in the House bill, which had been a disappointing $5 million. We understand that the conferees agreed on a funding level of $15 million. We would have preferred the $17.6 million requested by the President, but the conference