need by Washington bureaucrats whose only medical credentials are that they have visited a doctor for their yearly physical.

I yield back the Gore government-run prescription drug plan that has Washington, D.C. deciding which medicines should be in our cabinet.

URGING CONGRESS AND THE ADMINISTRATION TO RESTORE PEACE IN SIERRA LEONE

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

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with this Congress a story of a young girl who was maimed by thugs in Sierra Leone. These are some of the kids that testified before the Congress last week.

Bintu Amara, who is in this picture, who is 9 years old, watched rebels chop off her leg last year. They did it to terrorize everyone who sees her, and remind all the world that they will stop at nothing in their bid to control the country's diamond mines.

Bintu did not say much at the special hearing that the gentleman from California (Chairman ROYCE) held last week, but she did tell this Congress that she wants very much to go to school. That is not likely to happen, I am sad to report. Today, diamonds will earn $37 million for rebel armies, like the one that did this to Bintu. Tomorrow they will earn another $37 million, and so on.

I urge this Congress and this administration to do something about this, not in a year, not some day, but today. Americans buy two-thirds of the world's diamonds. They would be horrified to know that this is where their money goes.

We owe it to them, we owe it to Bintu, to do something about this tragedy.

ILLEGAL PRACTICES BY THE CLINTON-GORE ADMINISTRATION

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, last night in the Presidential debate AL GORE's words ''No controlling legal authority'' came up. What George Bush should have said is that all those words mean is, ''Catch me if you can.''

Everyone in Washington knows it is illegal to use foreign money. It is illegal to launder money. It is illegal to sell access. It is illegal to use your phones, your computers, your office, your staff, for raising funds.

The Democrats have accepted millions of dollars in foreign moneys, laundered money, and turned the Lincoln bedroom and the coffee klatches into a money-making machine.

Mr. GORE not only participated and planned, he was a cheerleader of this administration and their corrupt practices in the White House. That is why the American people are disappointed in Vice President AL GORE.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would advise that the Member should avoid personal references to the President or the Vice President.

CONGRESS MUST WORK TO PAY OFF THE PUBLIC DEBT AND PROVIDE A PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFIT TO SENIORS

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

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, in this time of great prosperity, it is imperative that Congress works to pay off the public debt and provide a prescription drug benefit for all seniors.

The Nation has a public debt of over $3 trillion. However, in the last 3 years, Republicans have paid down $354 billion in public debt and are on track to completely pay off this part of the national debt by 2012.

Republicans are committed to using 90 percent of next year's budget surplus to pay off the public debt, while locking away 100 percent of the social security and Medicare surpluses.

While we remain the most prosperous Nation in the world, the sad reality is that there are still some seniors who have to choose between putting food on the table and the prescription drugs they need to live healthy lives. Mr. Speaker, that is not fair.

When we passed a prescription drug benefit that was voluntary, available, and affordable for all seniors, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. GEPHARDT) and the Democrats walked out on seniors. That is not right. Republicans will not walk out on seniors, and will continue to work to find a bipartisan solution to reducing the cost of prescription drugs while working to pay off our public debt.

THE PRESIDENT SHOULD PUT DEBT REDUCTION AHEAD OF SPENDING AND AGREE TO REPUBLICAN 90/10 PROPOSAL

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

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, it has been 22 days since the Congress proposed to lock away 100 percent of the social security and Medicare surpluses and dedicate at least 90 percent of the total budget surplus for public debt reduction. It has been 22 days that the Clinton-Gore administration has refused to answer our calls for debt reduction.

There will be an estimated $268 billion surplus this fiscal year. Our question he simple: Should it be used to pay off the public debt, or should it be spent on ongoing Washington programs?

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Republicans are for using the surplus to pay off the debt. Where do President Clinton and Vice President GORE stand? Our children and grandchildren deserve better than to inherit mountains of debt.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the President and Vice President to put debt reduction ahead of spending and agree to our 90–10 percent proposal.

UNITED STATES MUST DO MORE FOR JUST PEACE IN SIERRA LEONE

(Mr. ROYCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, the war in Sierra Leone has been one of the most barbaric in the world. A rebel group, the RUF, supported by neighboring Liberia, has been conducting the most hideous of violence against civilians in this west African country. They are doing this to steal the Nation's diamond wealth.

Last week, 4-year-old Memunatu Mansaray told us how her and her grandmother were among 300 people who sought refuge in a mosque when rebels attacked the capital. When she cried out, the hiding population was discovered, and all but her were shot dead. She survived because, when it was her turn, a rebel commander told a 12-year-old boy, a boy captured and drugged by the rebels, not to waste a bullet on her, but to cut off her hand. Her right hand was amputated that day when she was just 2 years old.

Fortunately, private Americans have come forth to give her medical attention. But there are thousands of other child victims with nothing. As a matter of fact, there are 20,000 amputees. I believe that those who saw her left with an awareness of why the U.S. must do more to help bring a just peace, a just peace to Sierra Leone. This savagery has to stop.

PRESIDENT AND CONGRESS SHOULD WORK TOGETHER TO ELIMINATE DEBT

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it has been 22 days ago since Republicans asked the President and Vice President to join us in dedicating 90 percent of next year's surplus to eliminating the national debt. Even last night, the Vice President said he wanted to reduce the debt. But as of this morning, we have not heard a word from either one of them.