

□ 0930

STOP THE BICKERING

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

Mr. CREMEANS. Mr. Speaker, let us stop the bickering.

I urge my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to reflect on what they have done to reform this Government. Have they come out in support of tax limitation and the balanced budget amendment? Have they fought to reform unfunded mandates? Have they embraced the Republican-led changes in the way that Congress has done business, or have they fought the reforms put forth? Have they tried to filibuster, delay, and destroy the Contract With America?

Mr. Speaker, many Democrats have come the floor today and this past week for one reason, to stop needed reform in this Congress. They attack the Republicans on irrelevant issues. They complain about their procedures. They whine when we make necessary cuts.

Mr. Speaker, the time has come to stop this silly bickering. Let us work together to complete this contract with the American people and restore the people's faith in this Congress.

THE BALANCED BUDGET
AMENDMENT

(Ms. MCCARTHY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, this week we consider legislation that is the first step in a long process that will lead to a balanced budget. While we all know the litany of numbers surrounding the growth of the national debt, the numbers are so staggering they are worth repeating.

Over the past 12 years, it has tripled in size. We are now saddled with a \$5 trillion national debt and yearly interest payments of over \$200 billion.

I was elected to put an end to this practice, and for that reason I support the bipartisan, bicameral constitutional amendment offered by the gentleman from Colorado [Mr. SCHAEFER] and the gentleman from Texas [Mr. STENHOLM].

I urge every Member to support it.

After we complete work on the balanced budget amendment, we will then turn to the budget and appropriations process. During consideration of the yearly spending bills, I will work hard to cut wasteful and unnecessary Government spending. There are plenty of programs to target, and I look forward to the debate that will take place during consideration of these bills.

There will be tough choices to be made to reach our goal by 2002. However, as a former State legislator and past president of the National Conference of State Legislatures, there is one thing I will not cut. I will not support balancing the Federal budget on the backs of State and local governments.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION
TO END WASTEFUL PRACTICES
IN CONGRESSIONAL OFFICES

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

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to call attention to yet another example of how Congress wastes taxpayers' hard-earned money.

A week or two ago, every new Member received this letter from the Clerk of the House encouraging us to order our own personalized gold embossed set of the United States Code book, a set of 223 volumes that I have since discovered we can take with us when we leave office.

After doing a little research, I have learned that these books with each Congressman's name nicely engraved in gold on the binder costs taxpayer \$2,500 a set. Thus, to provide every new Member of the last two Congresses, they have spent over \$500,000; a half a million dollars spent on books that are available in every House office building, in the House counsel's office and, of course, in the Library of Congress across the street.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me as an original cosponsor of a measure that will end the practice of ordering these books and demonstrate to the American people that we are serious about cutting the deficit and that we are taking a small step in our individual offices to make a difference in the United States of America.

SENIOR CITIZENS, WAKE UP

(Mrs. MEEK of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am a senior citizen. I am here to say to senior citizens throughout this country, wake up, better smell the coffee. They are getting ready to make some very drastic changes here in this Congress that will affect you. So you have better call them, write them, and talk them to slow this train down.

I realize that a balanced budget is needed to control the runaway spending in this country, but as it is currently drafted, they are going to balance the budget on your backs, senior citizens. You have felt the toil of this country for all of these years. You paid taxes all of these years. Now they are going to cut Medicare, they are going to cut Medicaid, they are going to cut Social Security.

Do not let them fool you. There should be truth in packaging here so you can see the package that is being put together, so you can know what the cuts are.

Do not be fooled by what you are hearing about a balanced budget. Sure, it is good, but it is not what you can see that is going to hurt. Look at the massive cuts in Medicare. They are using the Constitution to change the fiscal policy. Let them do it. That is what they are elected to do, to cut.

Why use the Constitution to do that? Wake up, call them write them, whatever is within your voice, because the budget will be balanced on your back.

THE CREATION

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

Mr. HOKE. In the beginning there was limited government and a sound economy and abundance covered the face of the land.

Then Johnson, leader of the Spendites, looketh into the Treasury and saw there was a surplus, and he was sore afraid. So he called to the high priests of the Spendites, who even then had controlled the Congress for 10 years, and he spake thusly, "Democrats," for that was the Spendites' name, "We must exhaust the Royal Treasury, for there is a surplus, and I am sore afraid."

The Spendities heeded the call of lord LBJ and spent as if there was no tomorrow, creating foolish and wasteful Spendite programs that promiseth much but dideth not. And the Government became big and bloated, and the economy weak and burdened, and the children and the grandchildren, and, yea, even the great-grandchildren of the subjects of the Spendites were saddled with great debts. And the people cried out, "Balenceth the budget." But the Spendites were sore afraid, so the people cried out for the Thriftities to lead them out of the wilderness of deficit spending.

LET US HAVE THE TRUTH ABOUT
SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, today we will vote on some version of the balanced budget amendment. I rise in opposition to it, and I do so because I think that there is still the great unanswered question: Will this balanced budget amendment exclude Social Security? If it does, why not say so?

We have an opportunity today on the floor to support the Gephardt-Bonior amendment which our Republican colleagues could join us in if they in fact wish to exclude Social Security. And if not Social Security, then what?

Disclose. Let us have truth in budgeting. We have an opportunity today to support the Conyers amendment if, indeed, we want to be truthful and honest with the American people.

We have reason to be doubtful about the Republicans' intention about Social Security because of what they say.

My colleagues have pointed out this article written by Speaker GINGRICH which says, "Replace Social Security