

heard a lot of talk about how bold this budget is. Congratulating the Republican leadership for being bold by presenting this budget is like congratulating Lizzie Borden for being on the cutting edge.

BEING RELEVANT VERSUS BEING CONSIDERED RELEVANT

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

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that some politicians are only concerned about being considered relevant rather than being relevant.

According to Webster's dictionary, relevant is having significant and demonstrable bearing on the matter at hand.

Relevant is improving the standard of living for our children. That means ridding ourselves of deficits.

Relevant is having significant and demonstrable bearing on the deficits that are mortgaging our children's futures. That means balancing the budget.

Relevant is having significant and demonstrable bearing on the impending bankruptcy of Medicare. That means fixing the problem now.

Relevant is having significant and demonstrable bearing on the spiralling cost of entitlement. That means controlling the growth in the programs, such as Medicaid.

Relevant is having significant and demonstrable bearing on the bloated Federal bureaucracy intruding in the average citizens life. That means eliminate entire agencies and departments.

Relevant is doing what is right by our seniors and our children.

MEMBERS NEED TO STAND UP AND OPPOSE THE REPUBLICAN BUDGET PLAN

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

Mr. WARD. Mr. Speaker, Medicare is being cut in the Republican budget proposal, make no mistake about it. They are reducing the projected spending level, which means higher co-pays, reduced benefits, and reduced services. Why? Why are they doing this? To pay for a tax break for the wealthy. It is a cut in Medicare to pay for a tax break for the wealthy. If there were no tax break in this bill, there would be no need for the reduction in projected spending in Medicare in this budget.

Mr. Speaker, we need to stand up and oppose this plan.

COME HOME, DEMOCRATS

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the Democratic Party that once inspired our Nation by proclaiming "We have nothing to fear but fear itself" today has nothing to offer but fear.

The same party that once rallied Americans from the depths of the Depression today ignores the decline wrought by exploding Federal deficits. The same party whose leaders once warned of the dangers of welfare dole today defends a welfare state that traps the poor in dependency and despair. And the same party that marshalled the free world in the fight against Nazis today silently ignores an economic Dunkirk in Medicare.

There is an alternative for Democrats to this defense of the status quo. And it is well within the Democratic Party tradition. Our balanced budget upholds the tradition of Jefferson by ending the practice of saddling future generations with debt. It affirms the tradition of Roosevelt by providing for a strong, effective government that prepares for the future. And it celebrates the tradition of Kennedy by spurring growth through tax relief.

Come home Democrats: Restore the American dream and the proud tradition of America's oldest party by supporting our balanced budget.

THE REPUBLICAN BUDGET IS A BAD IDEA

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

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, this week we can see what the Republican majority is all about: tax breaks for the wealthy, tax loopholes for special interests, increases in military spending. How to pay for those tax loopholes, how to pay for those special interest tax breaks, how to pay for military spending increases? By cutting student loans for middle class families, by cutting veterans' benefits, by cutting Medicare.

Nearly 37 million senior citizens will pay more out of pocket costs, will suffer a reduction in benefits, and will lose their right to choose their doctor. Cuts in Medicare, veterans, students, to pay for tax breaks for the rich. Mr. Speaker, I am a deficit hawk. I voted for the balanced budget amendment, but the Republican budget is a bad idea.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE READY FOR REAL ACTION ON THE DEBT

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

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, during the district work period and subsequently, many of us have had town meetings and conversations with the good people we were elected to serve. One message that has come through

loud and clear is that the American people want Congress to work together to solve the great problems facing this great Nation. They know that the Medicare trust fund is going bankrupt. They understand that the burgeoning debt will destroy our children's economic future.

As Churchill reminded us, the American people did not cross the oceans, ford the streams, traverse the mountains, and deal with the droughts and pestilence because they are made of sugar candy. The American people are tough. They are ready for real solutions, but they will not accept simply lining up every day and yapping like a bunch of toy poodles while the debt balloons and Medicare goes bankrupt. The American people want real action. The American people are ready.

THE REPUBLICAN BUDGET WILL CUT MEDICARE AND NEEDED SERVICES TO STUDENTS AND THE ELDERLY WHILE GIVING TAX BREAKS TO THE RICH

(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, we have looked at the charts and we have looked at the graphs. They keep talking about the fact that "We are increasing Medicare, we are not decreasing Medicare." It is like a friend of mine who made \$100 a week back in 1960 saying he got a raise because he makes \$150 now. You have to adjust for inflation, you have to adjust for more people going into the system. This is not an increase. In fact, it is a very large decrease.

In my area in southwestern Pennsylvania, if this Republican proposal to cut Medicare this much goes through, our hospitals tell us that half of the hospitals in southwestern Pennsylvania will close. Many of those hospitals get 60 percent of their money from Medicare reimbursements, because 1 in 5 residents in southwestern Pennsylvania are on Medicare.

Mr. Speaker, this is a budget that would in fact also cut student loans by \$19 billion, that is an average of \$5,000 a year, by charging interest to students while they are in college. We do not want to give them an education so they can get a better job, and when they get older, we want to take their Medicare away; also, so we can give \$20,000 tax breaks every year to the richest 1 million Americans. Unfair, Mr. Speaker.

CONGRESS MUST AVOID RECKLESS BUDGET CUTS IN AGRICULTURE

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

Mr. NETHERCUTT. Mr. Speaker, America is faced with a continuing dilemma: maintaining adequate food supply at reasonable prices for consumers while providing incentives for farmers to grow the crops needed in the country.

In 1980, food became a weapon of foreign policy with the imposition of the infamous Russian grain embargo. That embargo created huge crop surpluses and the result was massive commodity price declines. By 1981 farmers were looking to the Government for relief, because the Government-imposed embargo created the problem. Our Government then became the only market for farm products because foreign competitors filled the void created by restrictions on U.S. exports. Now, many of these countries have captured a great portion of former U.S. markets.

American farmers continue to face unfair pricing practices from the Australian Wheat Board and the Canadian Wheat Board. European Union farmers receive approximately \$40 billion in government subsidies. American farmers can compete with foreign farmers, but not with foreign governments. Reckless budget cuts to agriculture will leave us farther behind in the effort to develop a free market for American agriculture.

REPUBLICANS TO REGULAR FOLKS: DROP DEAD

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

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, the Republicans have delivered their budget message, and what it says to regular, hard-working Americans is, in the words of a great headline: "drop dead."

The Republican message is that regular folks will get a lot less help to improve the schools that their kids attend; and when those kids get to college, there will be a whole lot less help to pay for it, and if they get student loans, they will pay much higher interest on those loans. For instance, they want to kill school improvement funds and totally eliminate library funding.

They would kill funds that help our schools provide special services to poor kids. They also would kill funds that allow college students to work off some of their loans through worthwhile community service—meaning that students and communities alike get hurt.

The Republican message is that if your town needs help to provide affordable housing, forget it. And if your town uses block grants to provide essential services, your town will get a 25-percent cut. In fact, the rule seems to be, if it is help for any kind of public service or public improvement, there will be a cut of at least 25 percent, and often a total wipeout.

The Republican message is, if you are sick or old or poor, or have to ride the bus to work, you will get less service or help and pay much more for what you do get.

The Republican message to regular folks is that no matter how hard you work, you will

pay more and get less for every kind of public service, and you will get less help to educate yourself or your kids, and by the way, if you are hoping for some neighborhood improvements and your town needs help to finance the effort, forget that too.

At the same time the Republicans are saying they will give a tax break to the rich.

So if you are an ordinary, hard-working American citizen, the Republican message is that your life is about to get harder. The poor will be poorer, the ordinary will be harder pressed, and those who are struggling to help themselves will have to struggle harder.

The Republicans do not come right out and say it, but their message could not be plainer: They want the well-off to get better off, and the rest of us can pay for it.

ADMINISTRATION CHARGED WITH USING SCARE TACTICS, DISHONEST CLICHES IN BUDGET DEBATE

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

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, for several weeks, Democrats have attempted to use shameless scare tactics to dismiss the Republican plan to balance the budget. Americans see through this sham.

In recent days, administration officials Tyson and Panetta have suggested the budget does not really need to be balanced by the year 2002. Americans know better.

The Democrats are not fooling anybody. Even the Washington Post acknowledges that the Democrats' complaints are "hollow and unpersuasive." The Post calls the Clinton administration budget "weak and directionless." In fact, the Post urges the Democrats to "stop playing it cute," and the President to "lead on this issue."

It is disconcerting that the President of the United States would abandon the American people in this manner, but he has. He refused to submit a balanced budget. This challenge should be tackled in a bipartisan fashion with input from the Congress and the President. Unfortunately, the President has chosen not to contribute and House Democrats offer nothing but dishonest cliches.

URGING JAPAN TO OPEN MARKETS TO AUTO PARTS IMPORTS

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

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, the United States Trade Representative has just announced tariffs, 100-percent tariffs on 13 luxury automobiles made in Japan. One of them is the Infinity Q45. This chart shows what our problem is. That car sells for \$85,000 in Japan, \$54,000 in the United States. It is the same car. They have to ship it here, insure it in its shipping. How does that happen?

Mr. Speaker, the reason is the Japanese shelter, they protect their home market. They do not let competition in, so they can charge their consumers anything they want, and then sell the cars lower in the United States, taking the profits in Japan to try to get market share in the United States. They are keeping auto parts out made in the United States that sell for one-third or one-fourth. We say to Japan "Open your markets. That is the issue. Open your markets. Compete. The United States is ready to compete. Won't you let us? It is about time."

DEMOCRATS ARE DISINTERESTED IN SAVING MEDICARE, BUT ONLY USE THE ISSUE TO WAGE CLASS WARFARE

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

Mr. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, it is clear by the statements by President Clinton and most other liberal Democrats over the last week that they are not interested in saving Medicare. They did not propose any alternative, they did not propose any plan. Instead, they want to use the imminent insolvency of Medicare as an opportunity to wage class warfare.

Let me quote the trustees' report, the trustees appointed by President Clinton: They said:

The HI Trust Fund does not meet the trustees' short-range test of financial adequacy. The fund is projected to be exhausted in the year 2001, 6 years from the present.

For our final math lesson for the day, when we increase Medicare from \$4,700 a year for medical benefits received by a senior citizen to \$6,300 a year for medical benefits received per senior citizen, that is an increase; \$4,700 this year, \$6,300 in the year 2002. That is an increase. No matter what the liberal left tells us, we are increasing Medicare.

□ 1040

REQUIRING MEDICARE TRUST FUND TRUSTEES TO REPORT CERTAIN FINANCIAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1590) to require the Trustees of the Medicare trust funds to report recommendations on resolving projected financial imbalance in Medicare trust funds.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1590

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. TRUSTEES' CONCLUSIONS REGARDING FINANCIAL STATUS OF MEDICARE TRUST FUNDS.

(a) HI TRUST FUND.—The 1995 annual report of the Board of Trustees of the Federal Hospital Insurance Trust Fund, submitted on