

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.

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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