

tax your way out of it. You are going to have to have a strong element of economic growth. My concern about this budget that will be on the floor today and tomorrow, the Republican budget out there for review, actually Wednesday and Thursday, is that what this budget does is it goes after growth.

Let me give you an example why. I hold here thousands of petition signatures of West Virginia college students and high school students, and I am willing to bet some parents, all who signed petitions circulated across our State in just the last couple of weeks urging Congress not to adopt the student loan cuts that are proposed in this budget. Whether it is West Virginia University, Shepherd College, Glenville, Fairmont State, University of Charleston, D&E, Davis and Elkins, you name it, 16 colleges and universities participate in this program, sending petitions under our own name, SAVE, Save America Via Education. They organized this effort themselves. They circulated the petitions, got up on Internet. The message is clear to Congress, thousands of people saying "Do not cut student loans."

Basically what is proposed to be cut is the Stafford Student Loan Program, the one that pays the interest while the student is in college and for 6 months thereafter.

Does it make much of a difference? It adds something like 20 to 50 percent to the lifetime cost of that loan. Many of these students somewhere along the road, and I visited many of the locations, said to me if that had been in effect I would not be able to be in college today; I would not be able to be in school today.

I have heard some say lightly, well, \$21 a month, maybe that is all it is going to be. One CD, one music CD. Rubbish. For many people, \$21 a month is a lot of money over a number of years. It is more in many cases, such as the nontraditional students, the mother who has put herself through a 4-year program, now getting an MBA, who said her daughter is now getting ready to enter undergraduate school, who told me how it would have been impossible at \$21 more a month to have accomplished that.

Why is this so important? It is so important because, getting back to growth for a second, the opportunities created by a college education mean that our economy will grow at record levels. Those of you older than 40 or 50 remember the impact of the GI bill, when millions of veterans came home from the war and were able to get that education.

The Department of Labor estimates that everyone who finishes college on the average will have a 60-percent higher lifetime income than those that do not. This college education clearly is a ticket to success, not only for individuals, but also for our society.

There is also a problem with college classrooms. If you have less people able to attend college, and, incidentally, since 1979 the median income has gone

up roughly 88 percent, I believe it is, while the tuition costs have gone up more than double that. So family income does not keep up with tuition income, which means these programs are more important. But there is also the very real fact that even those able to pay the full amount of tuition will find less students in school and therefore less classes available.

This is not a partisan issue. This is parents. It is teachers. It is students. It is anyone concerned about higher education. These thousands of students from across West Virginia have recognized clearly the impact this has.

Incidentally, it is not an interest loan deferral for all their lives; it is only for the time they are in school. They pay these loans back. But what the Federal Government does is to assist them in making sure they do not pay interest while they are actually in school.

So I would urge Members not to support this Republican proposal to cut student loans. While I am here, let me note I found of interest, it was just a month ago as I traveled the State when Republicans were asked about this. They said we have no intentions to do that. Today it is in the budget in a bigger way than I ever dreamed. I thought it was going to be \$16 billion. It is 33 billion dollars' worth of cuts.

So to respond to those who signed these petitions, this battle is going to go on over the summer and fall, and we urge many more people to make their voices heard. If you want to talk about growth, growth in our children, growth in our society, growth in our economy, then we cannot be cutting the student loans. I would urge rejection of the budget for that reason alone.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. MILLER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. MILLER of California addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kentucky [Mr. WARD] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. WARD addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon [Mr. DEFAZIO] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

HOUSE REPUBLICAN BUDGET PROPOSAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Missouri

[Mr. CLAY] is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the House Republican budget proposal.

There is a saying which goes "If you think education is hard, try ignorance." In today's budget-cutting frenzy, Republicans seem to be doing everything possible to establish ignorance as our national educational policy.

Recall that their assault on education started in the cafeteria, with their misguided, vicious attack on the School Lunch Program. With this latest volley, Republicans have now moved the battlelines into our Nation's classrooms, libraries, vocational training centers and, finally, to our college campuses.

The House Republican budget proposal would virtually obliterate the Federal role in education. It is a repudiation of this Nation's century-old bipartisan, national commitment to enhancing the educational opportunities of all of her citizens.

The House budget proposal is extremist and completely out of step with the views of the American people.

Moving into the classroom, Republicans would abolish or slash extremely popular and successful educational programs. Programs like Head Start, which they would reduce by \$609 million in 1996, cutting off services to as many as 100,000 children a year.

The widely popular school-to-work initiatives that help the majority of high school graduates learn the technical skills they need to get good-paying jobs.

Republicans would eliminate across-the-board efforts in 47 States to improve reading and writing, to put computers into the classroom, and to improve academic standards through Goals 2000.

The budget proposal virtually eliminates the Safe-and-Drug-Free School Program—even though drug use is on the rise among schoolchildren.

Programs that target assistance to 700,000 at-risk, disadvantaged children would be abolished. Republican hostility to programs designed to lift disadvantaged children out of poverty through learning is completely at odds with our highest ideals, as well as decades of bipartisan congressional policy.

Having laid waste to the cafeterias and the classrooms, the Republicans move on. They would eliminate Federal support for public libraries—the main repositories of knowledge and wisdom in our society.

Their next target is higher education. Their proposed cuts in student aid are a dramatic departure from the national policy established by nearly every President and Congress since President Truman, the Republicans are endangering the American dream for millions of working-class families.

House Republicans recommend cutting student aid as one way to finance