

that means that any increase in spending in one area will equal a decrease in another. It is simple accounting.

The rescission bill provides much-needed disaster assistance to people in Oklahoma City and to victims of earthquakes and floods in 40 States. Yet the President has decided to play politics with these disaster victims. By vetoing the rescission bill, thousands of people will have their suffering prolonged.

Mr. Speaker, the President just doesn't get it. The people want us to act responsibly and we have.

THE REPUBLICANS' BAD DEAL ON STUDENT LOANS

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

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, the Republican budget cuts student loans, plain and simple. The Republicans say they want to protect the children, they want to provide incentives for investment, but they want to slam the door on middle-class kids who want to go to college.

The Republicans want to cut student aid by \$9.5 billion by the year 2002. They will start by requiring students to pay interest on their loans before they have moved into their dormrooms, before they have even attended a class.

On average, a Texas student would pay up to \$5,000 more to attend a 4-year college under the Republican plan. That's \$5,000 most Texas families don't have to spend. Middle-class families will struggle to pay this amount when the cost of college is already rising twice as fast as their incomes.

Students in my district and the entire Houston area would especially be hit hard by these cuts. Rice University, one of the premier postsecondary institutions in this country, has 2,584 students enrolled this year in its undergraduate program. Of that number, 2,170 students receive financial aid—that's 82 percent of all undergraduates. Of those students, 715 receive Stafford loans totaling \$4.7 million. It's difficult to imagine how these students will find an extra \$3.6 million to complete their education.

The Republicans just don't get it when it comes to student loans. To compete in a world economy, we must encourage kids to get a higher education, not discourage them. Higher costs for higher education is a bad deal for Texas' students and an even worse deal for America's future.

A PLEA FOR SUPPORT OF AMERICAN OVERSEAS INTERESTS ACT

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

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1561—the American Overseas Interests Act—is the first major step toward re-

shaping and reorganizing our foreign policy operations since the cold war.

It begins by recognizing that—with the end of the long, twilight struggle—we no longer need the specialized agencies that were created to help in the fight against world communism.

Nor can we afford them, in a period when we are facing deficits in the range of \$200 billion a year. H.R. 1561 begins the necessary task of reordering, by eliminating the Agency for International Development, the U.S. Information Agency, and the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency—and transferring their responsibilities to the State Department.

Together with cuts in spending of \$3 billion over 2 years—that is cuts below current spending—we are on the way toward modernizing and streamlining the way we project American power and influence around the world. I urge my colleagues to join me in voting "yes" on final passage of the American Overseas Interests Act.

MEDICARE AND SOCIAL SECURITY USED TO BALANCE PROPOSED GOP BUDGET

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

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, having spent the last week in my district, it is obvious to me and to the 130,000 seniors in northern Michigan that the Republican budget proposals are wrong. In their budget resolution, they want to balance the budget on the backs of our seniors, veterans, and college students.

The Republicans want to cut \$282 billion from Medicare over the next several years. They say they must cut \$282 billion to save Medicare. Yet Medicare fund trustee Stanford G. Ross has testified that Medicare needs \$130 billion to remain solvent. Not \$282 billion. Why the extra \$152 billion? The Republicans want that money to pay for the tax breaks they are giving to large corporations and the top 1 percent of the wealthiest Americans, the millionaires and the billionaires, while they slash Medicare.

You know what else? The GOP plan as passed by the other body says that they will pass a balanced budget by 2002, but when you look at the bill, they still have a \$113 billion deficit. You know where they are going to make it up? By borrowing from the Social Security trust fund.

Mr. Speaker, the Republicans have broken their contract by using Medicare to balance the budget and by using Social Security to balance the budget.

RECONSIDER THE VETO

(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, President Clinton has threatened to veto the dis-

aster assistance package produced by the Congress.

I urge the President to reconsider that threat.

He should not sacrifice needed disaster assistance on the altar of domestic politics.

If the President vetoes this bill, he stops aid to victims of the tragedy in Oklahoma.

If the President vetoes this bill, he jeopardizes the peace process in the Middle East.

If he vetoes this bill, the President stops funds from flowing to aid victims of the natural disasters in California.

Mr. Speaker, if the President vetoes this bill, he allows \$9 billion in unnecessary and wasteful spending to be spent.

Apparently, the President has issued the veto threat because he wants to appear relevant to the legislative process. But vetoing this crucially important piece of legislation seems to me to be a destructive way to prove relevance.

SUPPORT WORLD SUMMIT FOR CHILDREN IMPLEMENTATION ACT

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

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, as we consider funding for U.S. foreign aid programs, I hope that Congress will remember the needs of children and enact the World Summit for Children Implementation Act.

We have all seen the pitiful photographs and the television videotape of children in other countries who are the helpless victims of poverty, ignorance, and war—little children who enter life with great hopes but few chances, and who suffer terribly because they lack the most basic of human needs—nourishing food, safe water, basic vitamins, immunization from disease, rudimentary sanitation, and basic education.

But we do not have to accept present reality. Progress has been made. Worldwide, child mortality rates have been cut in half in the last three decades. Eighty percent of the world's children are immunized against disease, saving 3 million children annually.

We need to continue this progress, and we can do it by implementing the goals of the World Summit for Children Implementation Act.

This is something we ought to do.

SUPPORT AMERICAN OVERSEAS INTERESTS ACT

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

Mr. KIM. Mr. Speaker, today we are going to adopt H.R. 1561, the American Overseas Interests Act. Everybody knows that our foreign aid programs are among the least accountable to our

taxpayers and the most dubious in their results. I did not say that. That is the letter sent by the Americans for Tax Reform group.

Taxpayer group after taxpayer group sends us letters urging us to revise and overhaul this long-overdue, complicated, foreign bureaucracy we have.

This is what we have, how complicated it is. Even Dr. Henry Kissinger says that the Agency for International Development is among the worst agencies he has ever seen. It is that bad.

By making common sense from this complicated bureaucratic system we have in controlling foreign aid, changing to this, under our new bill, from year to year, we can save \$1.8 billion.

That is why we support this bill today. I urge my colleagues to support this.

MEDICARE CUTS TO MISSOURI RURAL HOSPITALS PAY FOR TAX BREAKS FOR WEALTHY

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

Mr. VOLKMER. Mr. Speaker, it is flimflam time in the U.S. House of Representatives again. What do I mean by that? When we passed the budget, the Republican budget calls for huge cuts in Medicare in order to give tax breaks for the wealthy.

But when the Republican Members went back home, they said, "No, we're not making big cuts in Medicare. We're strengthening Medicare. We're improving Medicare."

Well, I went home and I talked to my hospital administrators, three of them, including one in my hometown. On Friday, I will be visiting three more rural hospitals.

What did they say? They did not say that Republican budget cuts in Medicare will improve Medicare, will strengthen Medicare. No. In my regional hospital at Hannibal, MO, by the year 2002, a loss of \$1.5 million a year in cuts—\$1.5 million jeopardizes my hospital.

What about Moberly Regional, \$1 million in lost revenue. Audrain County Medicare, \$1 million in lost revenue, jeopardizing rural hospital care with those Medicare cuts to give tax breaks for the wealthy.

WIDE GRASSROOTS SUPPORT CITED FOR PASSAGE OF AMERICAN OVERSEAS INTERESTS ACT

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

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, later today the House will resume work on H.R. 1561—the American Overseas Interests Act. It recognizes that the cold war is over by proposing the most important and comprehensive reform and reorganization of our foreign affairs activities in nearly 50 years.

Our legislation rolls up three independent cold war agencies and cuts spending by \$3 billion over 2 years. While the administration threatens to veto our bill, a broad array of grassroots organizations supports it, including citizens against Government Waste, the National Taxpayers Union Foundation, the Association of Concerned Taxpayers, and the Eagle Forum, to name just a few.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1561 offers an opportunity to streamline and downsize the Federal Government and cut spending while continuing to project American influence and power around the world in a cost-effective manner.

Accordingly, I urge my colleagues to support the American Overseas Interests Act on final passage.

MEDICARE CUTS THREATEN HOSPITALS IN SMALL-TOWN AMERICA

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

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. Speaker, if you have ever gotten into your car in the middle of the night to drive a critically injured or critically ill person to the hospital, you know that every minute seems like an hour. You pray to God that you will get to that hospital in time to save the life of someone you love very much.

That is what the debate on the floor or the House of Representatives is all about when we talk about the future of Medicare. Because if the Republicans have their way and cut \$282 billion out of Medicare over the next several years to fund a tax break for wealthy Americans, we are going to see hospitals closing in America, particularly in my part of the world in small-town America. It will mean for a lot of people a much longer drive in the middle of the night, many more prayers, and a lot more hope that they will make it in time.

Is this the Republican vision of America which people voted for last November? I don't think so. I hope the Gingrich Republicans will abandon this tax cut program that they have put forward and will instead focus on really strengthening Medicare instead of the cuts that they are proposing which will close hospitals across the United States.

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A MODIFIED FLAT TAX PROPOSAL CALLED McFLAT

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

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, I favor tax cuts for the American families. I believe American families can do more for themselves than the Government.

Mr. Speaker, the American people devote 5.4 billion hours and \$232 billion

every year to comply with the United States Tax Code. Furthermore, billions of dollars are then spent by the IRS to administer and enforce these tax laws. To reform this unwieldy system, our majority leader, Congressman DICK ARMEY has put forward a flat tax proposal that can simplify our system and provide a new contract with the American people.

We have all heard the phrase "you deserve a break today" and now I want to help put those words into action. Today I will be introducing a modified flat tax proposal called McFlat. the "m" stands for mortgage and the "c" stands for charitable. McFlat incorporates the meat of Congressman ARMEY's flat tax along with deductions for mortgage interest and charitable contributions.

McFlat can provide the arches, so to speak, between those that want a simpler and fairer system and those of us who feel that it is essential to retain deductions for homes, churches, and charities. McFlat is the simple and fair way to revolutionize the American Tax Code.

THE NEED FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF AN OUTSIDE COUNSEL

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

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, when is NEWT GINGRICH going to learn that he is not above the rules of this House?

Earlier this year, Mr. GINGRICH announced he would not sign his \$4.5 million book deal until the Ethics Committee approved it. But now he has changed his mind.

Even though the book is still under investigation, not only has Mr. GINGRICH signed the book deal, he has embarked on a Rupert Murdoch-financed book tour to hawk his book.

At a time when the American taxpayers will be paying his salary, Mr. GINGRICH is going to be on the road promoting a book that will make him a multimillionaire.

Mr. GINGRICH's lawyers said that since there has been no ruling, they just assumed that no rules have been broken. The Ethics Committee issued a strong rebuke: "You should make no such assumption."

Mr. Speaker, no Member of this House is above the rules, not even the Speaker.

The only way we are going to get to the bottom of this case is to appoint an outside counsel to investigate.

THE UNITED STATES-JAPAN AUTO DISPUTE

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, what is wrong with this picture? Regardless of the yen-dollar exchange rate, United States market share of the Japanese