

WE WILL BALANCE THE BUDGET

(Mr. NORWOOD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to include extraneous material.)

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I hold in my hand a petition signed by 137 hard-working men and women from the R&R Manufacturing Co. in Auburn, GA. They signed their names to this paper asking me to vote for a balanced budget. They understand the cost of not balancing our budget. They understand why we must make a shared sacrifice in order to save our children's future. Republicans in the House and Senate understand—we voted to balance the budget. Even the President said he would finally submit a balanced budget—of course he then changed his mind. Maybe he just doesn't understand. But to my friends and neighbors back home like Mr. Jean Withers at R&R Manufacturing, I say this—we listened to what you said in November—we are making the hard choices, and we will balance the budget. It's all about keeping your word. And to my 137 friends back in Auburn, GA, I am keeping my word to you.

INDEPENDENT COUNSEL NEEDED TO INVESTIGATE THE SPEAKER

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

Mr. VOLKMER. Mr. Speaker, the winter snows have come and gone, the cherry blossoms have blown away, and a tulip cannot be found around the Capitol. Yet stonewalling by the Ethics Committee has failed to bring an independent counsel to investigate the Speaker. I would like to tell my colleagues that there is one issue that I agree on 100 percent with the Speaker. I believe that we should give him just what he asked for when he raised questions concerning then-Speaker Wright. A 1988 press release stated "The rules normally applied by the Ethics Committee to an investigation of a typical Member are insufficient in an investigation of the Speaker of the House * * *".

Mr. Speaker, it is time that we removed these sinister dark clouds that hang over these Chambers: We need an independent counsel. I can not say it better than you did in 1988, "It is vital that the Ethics Committee hire outside counsel and pursue these questions thoroughly. The trust of the public and the integrity of the House will accept no lower standard."

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REPUBLICANS COMMITTED TO SAVING MEDICARE

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

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, Medicare's trustees warn that

the Medicare system will be bankrupt in just 7 years in 2002.

That means that if you are 58 today—there might be no Medicare for you when you turn 65.

If the system goes bankrupt, Medicare does not have the authority to pay the hospital bills of any one senior citizen, let alone the 37 million senior citizens and disabled who will depend upon it.

That is the challenge all Americans face.

Republicans are committed to preserving, protecting, and saving Medicare.

We urge the President to join us in this effort.

HOLLYWOOD AND TV ARE NOT THE CAUSE OF OUR PROBLEMS

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, more American children can name all the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. Most of them cannot name the last three Presidents. More Americans watch Rush Limbaugh, Donahue, and Equal Time each week than watch C-SPAN all year. No doubt America is addicted to TV and Hollywood, which causes some experts to believe that the TV and Hollywood are the problems of the violence in America. I disagree, folks. I think TV and Hollywood are nothing more than a mirror image of our society, and, in fact, I think the Congress, instead of investigating Hollywood and television, should look at our policies about jobs. It is about jobs, Congress. Mom and dad with jobs, mom and dad will change America, not Capitol Hill nor Hollywood.

I would like to say this: Americans with jobs are not hanging out on the street corner. Jobs create family strength, and community pride. Investigate jobs and loss of jobs, Congress.

Let Hollywood and TV take care of themselves.

CLINTON EDUCATION CUTS

(Mr. KNOLLENBERG asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, our Democratic colleagues continue to distort our plan to balance the budget.

Specifically, they have—in demagogic fashion—argued that our budget plan will devastate education in our country.

In reality, our budget plan will protect important programs and consolidate and eliminate those that are duplicative and inefficient.

Before attacking our efforts to balance the budget and lower taxes on working families, I ask that my Democratic colleagues review the administration's 1996 budget request for the Department of Education.

The President proposes cutting the Department's budget by 9.8 percent and eliminating 30 percent of its programs.

Contrary to his rhetoric of late, the President's budget seems to acknowledge that we should streamline Federal education programs.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the President and my Democratic colleagues to quit playing politics-as-usual and begin working with us to balance the budget.

It is time to quit playing games and get down to the real business at hand.

WE DO NOT NEED MORE B-2'S

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

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, the 1996 defense authorization bill before this House today repeals current law that limits the number of B-2 Stealth bombers that may be produced at 20 planes and lifting the current \$44 billion spending limit.

Mr. Speaker, witnesses on behalf of the Air Force, both civilians and uniformed service, have repeatedly indicated to us that they do not want these bombers, that the Joint Chiefs of Staff repeatedly have testified that they do not want to purchase more B-2's.

There is no money programmed in anyone's budget plan to pay for the out-year costs that will be forced by the bill's provisions to build more B-2's. This will cost \$38.2 billion over 20 years, and the highly regarded Institute for Defense Analyses has indicated that that money would be better spent on precision guided munitions and conventional munitions upgrades to the B-1 Bomber.

Mr. Speaker, what could that same amount of money be better used for, if not for deficit reduction? Then, alternatively, that same amount of money would immunize every child in the United States, fully fund Public Broadcasting for 10 years, restore all education funds and be better used for the people of this country.

WHERE ARE THE PRESIDENT'S IDEAS?

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

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, it was nice to see the President sit beside the Speaker of the House and agree that the Medicare trust fund has serious problems that need to be fixed before it goes broke by the year 2002. It was encouraging to see the President agree that Medicare cannot survive under the status quo—that changes are necessary to preserve, protect, and save Medicare.

But Mr. Speaker, where are the President's ideas? Where are his solutions? Where are the ideas of my liberal Democrat colleagues in the House? It is easy to stand around and talk